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## REVIEWS

*The Chronology of Egypt*—[*Die Chronologie der Ägypter*]. By Richard Lepsius. Berlin, Buchhandlung; London, Madden.

Fragmentary, imperfect, obscure and uncertain as our knowledge of ancient Egypt is—and probably must ever be—it has received great and valuable accessions within the present century. The investigations and discussions of Salt, Burton, Felix, Wilkinson, Vyse, Young, Champollion, Rossellini, Bunsen and Lepsius, have given it such a shape and consistency as to elevate it to the rank of a science under the title of Egyptology. Champollion's grand hieroglyphical discoveries—founded on the Rosetta Stone, and facilitated by the previous researches of Dr. Young—formed the commencement of a new era in the study. Much that was before dark and doubtful has since been satisfactorily cleared up, many errors have been corrected, and some conjectures have been confirmed in a gratifying manner by ancient monuments which we are now able partially to decipher. Since the timely deaths of Champollion and Rossellini, none have contributed so largely to the full development of our present resources as the Chevalier Bunsen and Dr. Lepsius. "In the year 1834," says the former, "Richard Lepsius, a young German philologist, gifted with a genius for the study of the monuments not inferior to that of Rossellini, and with much more natural acuteness and critical tact—furnished, besides, with that comprehensive knowledge of language peculiar to the German school—commenced, though not himself a pupil of Champollion, following out, from his own independent resources, the path opened up by that great master."—Dr. Lepsius may now be said to be the first of living Egyptologists. The most important of his former publications on this subject are—'A Journey from Thebes to Lower Arabia,' 'The Tablet of Abydos,' 'The Tottenbuch,' and 'A Selection of the most Important Records of Egyptian Antiquity.' This last work was freely used by Bunsen. Most valuable services have been rendered to the student of Egyptian antiquity by Lepsius's various discoveries,—his restoration of ancient monuments, particularly 'The Hieratical Canon or Royal Papyrus of Turin,'—and, above all, his corrections and improvements of Champollion's hieroglyphic system. In September, 1842, as our readers well know, he was appointed to take the conduct of a scientific Expedition into Egypt and Ethiopia, fitted out by the present King of Prussia. He remained there upwards of three years, pursuing his investigations with persevering diligence:—and the present is the first published result of his inquiries. The work is to consist of two other parts in addition to this. In a dedication to the Chevalier Bunsen, the author thus describes the object which he has in view and the feelings by which he is actuated:—

My chronological work—the first volume of which is now presented to you—proceeding from a much more limited point of view, and aiming at a much nearer object than your historical treatise—will if successful occupy the supplementary position which you originally destined for it in your more comprehensive scheme. My business is not to show Egypt's place in the history of the world, but only in the history of time—which is but the external form of the preceding:—it is, therefore, not an historical, but a chronological task. But you rightly considered it the first and most important point to secure a chronological foundation, because upon this all further historical development must rest.

Nearly half of the present volume consists of

the Introduction; which treats of "the previous conditions necessary to the existence of a chronology among the Egyptians and the possibility of its restoration." After noticing the deficiency of the Greeks, Romans, Indians, Chaldeans, Chinese and Hebrews in early authentic chronology, principally in consequence of their want of contemporary monuments, the author points out by way of contrast the numerous circumstances favourable to the existence of an early history and chronology in Egypt. He commences with this observation:—

As we started from the principle that the beginning of every true history and chronology in the modern scientific sense cannot be much earlier than their earliest contemporary sources of information—and, in the case of the Asiatic and European nations, found this verified to the disadvantage of their earliest history—so, it is in this very point that the signal advantage of the Egyptian history over all others consists. It is because we have in this case such very early contemporary sources of information—and those not only literary but also monumental, which are the most direct of any—that it is in our power to possess so early a history of the Egyptians.

The first circumstance, however, which the writer mentions as giving Egypt an advantage over every other nation in a chronological point of view, is the peculiarity of its climate and local character. In countries where the atmosphere is charged with moisture and rain is frequent or wind prevalent, the destructive effects of time upon the stoutest buildings soon become evident. This is partially exemplified in the Delta and the rest of Lower Egypt; which are affected by the exhalations arising from the neighbouring sea. The consequence is, that Memphis, which was formerly the celebrated capital of the whole kingdom, Heliopolis, Saïs, and other important cities are now mere heaps of ruins. The granite obelisks at Alexandria are partly illegible through the corroding influence of the atmosphere. On the contrary, in Upper Egypt the monuments, unaffected by the inundations of the Nile, and the tombs, exhibit no signs of decay after the lapse of many centuries. The black bricks made out of the mud of the Nile and dried in the sun, some of which have been exposed to the open air for thousands of years—as is proved by their bearing the name of Ramses Miamun, a king of the fourteenth century before Christ—still retain their original hardness and firm position in the temples, pyramids and tombs for which they have been used, together with all their architectural ornaments. The durability of vegetable and animal substances is even more extraordinary. In the most ancient tombs are to be found sarcophagi, chests, chairs, tools and other things made of wood, grains of corn, dried fruits—such as dates, almonds, nuts and grapes—plaited reeds, papyrus, and an incredible number of linen articles, all in a state of perfect preservation. Mummies that have lain there for many centuries have been discovered with the hair, skin and feathers entire. Egypt possesses, too, an abundance of the most suitable materials for building lasting monuments; while the facility of conveying them from one end of the country to the other along the natural canal of the Nile renders them accessible to all the inhabitants.

Again, the Egyptians were naturally an historical people. Herodotus says that those who inhabited the cultivated part of Egypt were more practised in the recollection of past events and far more addicted to history than any other nation with whom he was acquainted. Dissatisfied with the littleness of the fleeting present, they looked to the distant past and future—and sought to convey to posterity the knowledge of what they had either received

from their forefathers or witnessed in their own times. Hence their eagerness to avail themselves of the facilities furnished by nature for giving permanence to the present. Hence their rage for large buildings. Kings squandered their resources and oppressed their subjects in order to raise temples, palaces and pyramids. Private persons possessed of wealth vied with their rulers in the magnificence of their tombs. All these edifices were constructed of such materials and in such a manner as to ensure their long continuance. The anxiety of the Egyptians for the permanence of their works is seen in the care with which they embalmed their dead—and inclosed them in double or even triple sarcophagi of the hardest wood and stone, fastened down in the most skilful manner; as well as in their precaution to block up the entrances of the tombs by colossal masses of stone, and to conceal the passages leading to the chambers containing the sarcophagi. Lepsius thinks it not improbable that there are yet many subterranean monuments of great importance concealed in the inexhaustible sepulchres of Memphis, Abydos and Thebes. It is obvious that all the Egyptian monuments would have been of little or no avail as sources of history unless they bore some records for the information of the reader of a future age. To this the Egyptians were fully alive in the earliest times. It is remarkable that, according to their annals, Tosorthros, the second king of the second dynasty, a contemporary of Menes—more than three thousand years B.C.—who was the first to build with hewn stone, devoted much attention to the development of the art of writing; and from the time of Cheops—also more than three thousand years B.C.—we find in the monuments a completely formed system of writing, the use of which was evidently by no means confined to the priests. The manner in which the Egyptians availed themselves of this art is worthy of notice. Not satisfied, like the Greeks and Romans, with a single inscription on some prominent part of their temples or tombs, they engraved them with astonishing precision and elegance—considering the hardness and roughness of the stone, together with the pictorial character of the writing—upon "all the walls, pillars, roofs, architraves, friezes and posts, both inside and outside."

In the case of the other nations of antiquity, [observes Dr. Lepsius] how valuable are statues, vases, gems or other objects which bear inscriptions relating to their origin, their possessor or their use. In Egypt this is the general rule. There, no colossal column is too great, no amulet too small, to declare of itself by an inscription the purpose to which it was devoted; nor is there any article of furniture that does not bear the name of its possessor. Each temple had not only its dedication in which were mentioned both the person who built it and the god whom he sought to honour, and which was thought of so much consequence that obelisks, a separate class of monuments in the open air, were appropriated to it at the approaches to the outer doors;—but every new addition to the building, every newly erected pillar, nay, even the repairs of particular parts that had been accidentally injured, contained special intimations as to what had been done towards the enlargement, adornment or restoration of the temple, and by whom it had been accomplished.

Writing was in very early times applied also to literary purposes. From the very first use of the papyrus and the time of the Pyramids at Memphis, we find that writers occupied themselves in describing on leaves the wealth and power of their rulers. That they even then had public annals, appears from the historical accounts which have come down to us. We now possess, too, original fragments of such



annals, belonging to the commencement of the New Empire,—and therefore, extending upwards of five hundred years farther back than the earliest literary remains of any other ancient nation. The great number of these fragments gives credibility to the statement of Diodorus, that a library was built at Thebes in the time of Ramses Miamun, who flourished, as we have said, in the fourteenth century B.C. This is confirmed by Champollion's observations among the ruins on the spot. Dr. Lepsius tells us that he has himself seen the tombs of two librarians—father and son—who lived under that king and were called Superintendents of the Books. Clemens Alexandrinus says, the Egyptians in his time had forty-two sacred books; the latest of which, according to Bunsen, was earlier than the time of the Psameticus—certainly not later. It can, therefore, be no matter of surprise that 400,000 volumes or scrolls should in a short time have been collected in the library founded at Alexandria by Ptolemy Philadelphus.

Nor was this abundance of literary resources without its appropriate fruits. As we said before, the wisdom of the Egyptians was proverbial for ages. Herodotus informs us that the Ælians sent to them as to the wisest of all men when they were about to establish their Olympic games. The high reputation of Egypt in an intellectual point of view appears from the mythological accounts given of Danaus, Erichon, Orpheus, Musæus, Dædalus and others; who are all described as having visited, or originally come from, that country. Lycurgus, Solon, and Cleobulus the Wise are said to have increased their fame and knowledge by studying there. Egypt was especially regarded as the principal school of philosophy, science, and literature of every kind. Hence, philosophers, mathematicians, physicians, and historians were eager to spend years in instructive intercourse with the sages of that venerable nation. Strabo saw the house at Heliopolis where Plato and Eudoxus the mathematician had pursued their studies for thirteen years, and the observatory of the latter—even then bearing his name. Thales received instruction from the Egyptian priests. Archimedes invented his celebrated screw in Egypt. Pythagoras spent many years there; as is proved by the nature of his doctrines,—which are evidently derived from that source. Among other celebrated men said to have visited Egypt, are Anaxagoras, Democritus, Alcæus, Euripides, Hecateus, Herodotus and Diodorus Siculus.

As Chronology is inseparably connected with Astronomy, our author next proceeds to examine in detail, and at great length, the statements of different authors as to the astronomical knowledge of the Egyptians; comparing them with existing monuments to see how far they are confirmed. The result is thus summarily stated.—

We have found divisions of time from the 21,600th part of a day up to their greatest period of 36,525 years. Between these extremes there were cycles of every length, determined with greater precision than those of any other ancient nation. They recognized not only the ordinary hours of variable length, formed by dividing the periods between sunrise and sunset, and *vice versa*, into twelve equal parts, but also the twenty-four equal portions of a complete day. Out of these days were formed decades or Egyptian weeks, —and from these, months of thirty days. They also observed lunar months, and celebrated their commencement and middle. Their seasons consisted of four months. They recognized and registered in their calendar, not only the old lunar year, but also the common year of 365 days, and the exact year of about 365¼ days, which commenced with the heliacal rising of Sirius. The common year coincided with the course of the moon after the Apis period of 25 years; with the Sirius year—in point of days—after the Iustrum of 4 years, and

perfectly after the Sothis period of 1361 years. The Phenix period of 1500 years—which was afterwards divided into three periods of 500 years each—served to equalize it with the tropical year. Lastly, the sidereal year, determined by the slow regression of the ecliptic towards the west, was known to them—though without a perfect understanding of the direction or velocity of the motion,—and was expressed by their greatest period of 36,525 years.

The mere existence of this astronomical knowledge is, in Dr. Lepsius's opinion, a proof that the Egyptians must have had some chronological era,—since they could not otherwise have made such progress in the science of astronomy, and formed such lengthened periods of equalization. The astronomical observations taken before the beginning of the era of Nabonassar were useless to Hipparchus, for want of an Egyptian astronomical canon. The necessity of such a canon, and consequently of an era—or the conventional determination of a certain point of time from which to reckon all succeeding events—must have been evident to the Egyptians. Hence, Dr. Lepsius thinks it absurd to suppose, according to the prevailing notion, that while the Chaldeans, Jews, Greeks, Romans, Indians and Chinese, each possessed a chronological era,—the Egyptians were inferior to the rest of the world in a point of such great importance. Nothing short of the strongest historical proof is sufficient to overcome this antecedent improbability,—and in Dr. Lepsius's opinion no such evidence can be adduced.

The latter half of the present volume is devoted to a critical examination of the different sources of information now open to the Egyptian chronologist. This investigation Dr. Lepsius considers the most valuable result of his laborious and tedious undertaking; and one that will necessarily have an important bearing on the remainder of the work, since the second and third parts can contain only the detailed application and proof of the principles which are here established generally. As the main object of chronology is to connect single events together in the order of time, it is unnecessary to take any notice of those authors who have merely given us information about isolated events without attempting to arrange them chronologically. Hence, the author confines his attention principally to Herodotus, Diodorus, Manetho, and Eratosthenes; since no others have made it their business to furnish an account of Egyptian transactions in the order of their occurrence. Still, he considers that the books of the Old Testament ought also to be taken into account; because they inform us of many comparatively ancient circumstances, and supply a chronological thread which has several important points of support in the history of Ancient Egypt.

Herodotus and Diodorus both devoted more attention to the history, character, and manners of the Egyptians than any others among the ancients,—though in each case the account which they give forms only part of a more comprehensive work, and consists mainly of what was calculated to strike the attention or flatter the national vanity of the Greek reader. Without at all depreciating their value as historical authorities, Dr. Lepsius thinks them nearly useless to the Egyptian chronologist. If we possessed no other chronological information than they supply we should see from the monuments that they are incorrect,—but should be unable to rectify their errors. At the same time, it must be allowed that their accounts of periods later than that of Psameticus are of greater chronological value. It is pretty certain, in the author's opinion, that neither of them understood the Egyptian language; and

they were consequently obliged to avail themselves of the assistance of professional interpreters,—a class of men who seem to have abounded in the parts of Egypt most frequented by foreigners,—particularly in Memphis and in Thebes—ever since Psameticus gave some Egyptian youths to be instructed in the Greek language by the Ionians and Carians whom he allowed to settle on the Pelusiac, —east, branch of the Nile, near Bubastis.—

Hence it follows, that in the accounts of Herodotus and Diodorus we have no original sources of information. They are, with few exceptions, not the immediate communications of learned hieroglyphicists out of their sacred histories, but merely the forms which certain national events and persons of Egyptian antiquity assumed in the mouth of foreigners—especially Greek settlers—through the intervention of interpreters. The connecting links of events are either altogether wanting or supplied by an arbitrary number of inactive generations. A strict chronology, therefore, is not to be expected of either. They neither made this their object nor could they have obtained it from their informants. They involved themselves in the greatest chronological contradictions without even remarking it; and the incessant attempts of modern scholars to restore the Egyptian chronology out of these materials could not fail to prove a real Danaid task, which would have been quite intolerable but for the circumstance that beyond the time of Psameticus the critical which might be obtained from the history of other nations became more and more uncertain and soon entirely disappeared. It might have been expected that at least the relative order of the kings and events recorded would be correct. Instead of this, it now appears that even the principal epochs of the Egyptian history are placed in wrong order. Thebes is represented as having flourished earlier than Memphis; and Cheops, who built the Great Pyramid, is made a successor of Rammpis, who reigned more than two thousand years later. This serious error,—which even Niebuhr shared in common with all modern inquirers—was the more firmly established because Diodorus, who often differs from Herodotus in particular circumstances, entirely agreed with him in this most important point.

Mr. Grote has remarked on the Grecian tinge discernible in the statements of Herodotus and Diodorus—especially the latter—with regard to Ancient Egypt. After a searching investigation and a close comparison of the chronological accounts of these authors with Egyptian monuments, Dr. Lepsius comes to the consideration of the Hebrew chronology. He agrees with Bunsen in thinking that there is no connected authentic chronology in the Hebrew Scriptures prior to the building of the Temple under Solomon. In confirmation of this opinion, he points out the discrepancies in the different accounts with regard to two leading points,—the length of the sojourn in Egypt, and the number of years between the Exodus and the Building of the Temple. According to the Hebrew chronology the latter period consisted of 480 years; but if the separate numbers given in the Book of Judges be added together the sum is considerably larger,—while the genealogies of the same period make it much smaller. The Septuagint estimates the time at 440 years. In the Acts it is said to be 450. Josephus makes it much longer than 480 years. There is a still greater difference in the statements as to the length of the sojourn in Egypt. Following the example of Ewald and Bunsen, our author comments upon the numerical relation subsisting between the 215 years from Abraham to Jacob and the 215 or 430 from Jacob to Moses, and the frequent repetition of the number 40. It occurs several times in the account of the flood. The Israelites wandered in the wilderness 40 years. The judges Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, and (after the Philistines had ruled 40 years) Eli, each reigned 40 years. So also did Saul, David, and Solomon.

There is but too much reason to suspect that these numbers have been fixed on by some tampering editor, rather from arbitrary choice on account of some supposed virtue in them than on any sound historical principle. This suspicion is strengthened by the impossibility of reconciling many well-established facts of history with the received chronology of Scripture; which Bunsen calls "the melancholy legacy of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries,—a compound of intentional deceit and utter misconception of the principles of historical research." Hence, it is necessary to distinguish carefully between Scripture and the chronology of Scripture which has generally been adopted by Protestants since the Reformation,—but is certainly not scriptural in the ordinary sense of the word. Besides this Hebrew version of the Mosaic chronology, there are those of the Samaritan Pentateuch and of the Septuagint; each claiming to be genuine, and each supported by orthodox authority,—yet differing to the extent of about a thousand years. Perhaps of the three the Hebrew is the least tenable and the Septuagint the most trustworthy. Lepsius and Bunsen are both fully aware of the misconception and misunderstanding to which their views on this subject are liable. Still, they boldly maintain their right of free independent research, with a full acknowledgment of the claims of Revelation. Bunsen, whom Dr. Lepsius quotes, thus expresses himself:—

Whoever adopts as a principle that chronology is a matter of revelation, is precluded from giving effect to any doubt that may cross his path, as involving a virtual abandonment of his faith in revelation. He must be prepared, not only to deny the existence of contradictory statements, but to fill up chasms; however irreconcilable the former may appear by any aid of philology and history, however unathomable the latter. The assumption that he entered into the scheme of Divine Providence, either to preserve for us a chronology of the Jews and their forefathers by real tradition, or to provide the later commentators with magic powers in respect to the most exotic element of history, may seem indispensable to some and absurd to others. Historical inquiry has nothing whatever to do with such idle, and often fallacious, assumptions. Its business is to see whether anything—and if so, what—has been submitted to us. If it fulfil this duty in a spirit of reverence as well as of liberty, sooner or later it will obtain the prize which, if the history of the last 2,000 years proves anything at all, Providence has refused to both the other systems.

Without dwelling longer on a subject scarcely within the bounds which we prescribe to ourselves,—we feel justified in observing, that to assert, as Mr. Osburn does, that Bunsen and Lepsius are actuated by feelings of hostility to Scripture, and pursue their Egyptological investigations for the express purpose of undermining its authority, is a monstrous violation of charity, justice, and truth.

Our author differs from Bunsen in giving a decided preference to Manetho over Eratosthenes.—

Among the above mentioned authors, Manetho, the learned Egyptian, who knew Greek, takes indisputably the first place; and would render the rest almost superfluous if we had his historical work complete. But we possess merely extracts from it,—and those transformed into different shapes by different editors. To sift these derived materials, to separate the additions which serve only to confuse, and to restore as purely and perfectly as possible that portion of the original work of the Egyptian priest which they contain, will be the principal object of our critical examination. All other sources of information—at least those relating to the most ancient times—are so inferior in chronological value to this work, even in its fragmentary state, that scarcely anything more remains for us to do than either to confirm or correct their representations by the chronology of Manetho, as the only one agreeing with the

monuments. It is only in cases where the statements of the Egyptian have been falsified by Greek or Semitic influence, that the intimate knowledge of these sources will be of direct use in order to trace back the heterogeneous portions to their origin.

He then points out the superior value of Manetho compared with Herodotus and Diodorus; grounded upon the fact that the latter only wrote for their own countrymen what was capable of being included in a general history, and was derived from foreign sources to which they had no access but through the medium of interpreters—while Manetho investigated the separate events in the history of his native country, and for this purpose consulted the numerous records open to him in the temples and other public buildings, and written in his own language. He was born at Sebennytus, in Lower Egypt—and was reputed for his learning, even in the time of Ptolemy Soter. There is good reason to believe that he undertook his great historical work—which is almost entirely lost—at the command of Ptolemy Philadelphus.—“What we know of the genuine works of Manetho proves him to have been an earnest, intelligent, truth-seeking man, who in his statements always adhered faithfully to the ancient sources of information.”

Eratosthenes, like Herodotus and Diodorus, laboured under the disadvantage of possessing but an imperfect knowledge of the Egyptian language. The only true sources of history are contemporary authors or contemporary monuments; but though he understood these imperfectly or not at all, he attempted to investigate the history of most distant periods with the same complete want of true critical principles as we find in all the ancients. Hence his work is of comparatively little use; especially as it has reached us in a state of hopeless corruption, so far as names and numbers are concerned. At the same time, his endeavour to form an uninterrupted strict chronological series of all the kings—though not in Dr. Lepsius's opinion successful—entitles him to respect for the boldness and systematic method which it displays. Here, however, as in each separate department of science, he was only second:—the *Beta*, as he was called by the learned of his own time. The claim of Manetho, the *Alpha*, to our confidence is founded not so much on the keenness of his critical powers or the ingenuity of his reflections, as on the fidelity and discrimination with which he translates contemporary annals: and this is the sole guarantee that we want in such an inquiry as the present. Had he been a man of speculative turn, who sought to harmonize the ancient history of Egypt with that of other countries, or endeavoured to describe the reigns of the gods—he would probably have been less successful, and certainly less worthy of trust. But he attempted nothing of the kind. He tells us in simple unpretending style what he found in the annals of the temples; giving an honest account of the unfortunate as well as the successful transactions of his ancestors. Here we meet with no such fantastic stories as those of Berosus and Abydenus. There is, in him, also a total absence of prejudice and national predilection. Such is the character that Dr. Lepsius gives of the learned Egyptian whose lists of kings after Menes he considers strictly historical; though he agrees with Böckh in thinking that those of the mythological era which preceded are cyclical—i.e., arranged in such a manner as to form an exact number of Sothic cycles, or periods of 1460 Egyptian or 1461 Julian years. Böckh attributes this cyclical arrangement to all the lists of Manetho, while Bunsen admits it in none but those of the gods. Dr. Lepsius states his reasons for

differing from both these authorities, in a manner at once forcible and modest.

In conclusion, we have to express our earnest hope that Dr. Lepsius will be enabled successfully to complete his colossal production:—which in the depth and width of the research on which it is founded, the firm coherence of its reasoning, the towering height of its speculations, and the methodical arrangement of its materials, reminds us in some degree of the Great Pyramid itself.

#### CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

*Rebecca and Rowena; or, Romance upon Romance.* By Mr. M. A. Titmarsh. Illustrated by Richard Doyle. Chapman & Hall.

THE sprite who sits on the cover of this book—palette in hand, inviting us to look on while he “paints the Lily”—has conjured up all manner of whimsical speculations fit for the season of Christmas. What if this *Romance upon Romance* should prove the first volume of a new Novelists' Library of fourth volumes—of a new British and Foreign Theatre of sixth acts?—Now that Mr. Titmarsh has ushered us behind the curtain—proved to us that Rowena turned out only a better sort of Saxon *Mrs. Caudle*,—now that he has relieved our minds with regard to the ultimate celibacy and single unblestness of “the daughter of Isaac, the son of Adonikam,”—what mystery is there which may not be brought to light by the divining rod of such a Great Knowing as he who travels about story-land in search of new veins of metal? Have we at last got hold of a *clairvoyant* who is worth something? Shall we learn how it was that *Queen Lear* educated her two eldest daughters to turn out such Beckys, in comparison with the better-behaved *Cordelia*? Shall we get a peep at the Diary kept by *Hermione* during the long years which elapsed betwixt her trial by her husband—and her trial of her husband from the *Lady Paulina's* pedestal? Shall we ascertain what retribution overtook *Miss Arabella* and *Mr. James Harlowe* in their old days? Shall we arrive at some understanding of the true relative positions of *Christabel* and the *Serpent-Lady*? Shall we come to know—what Mr. Sheridan Knowles has so maliciously entangled—the real case of the Rochdale Peerage, the rights and wrongs of which, while in suspense, produced such salutary effects upon the character of *Master Walter's* ward? The rush of “questions and commands” thus let loose, becomes bewildering. There is no hope of disposing of it had we exclusively at our beck the *Athenæum* for a twelvemonth, in place of a few lines in the number closing the year 1849. Meanwhile, knowing that Mr. Titmarsh is somewhat Atlantean, we are content to leave the consequences upon his shoulders; confining ourselves to the pleasant duty of the hour,—which is to offer thanks for the capital Christmas Book which he has bestowed upon us. Such a harlequinade of whim, irony, provocation for curiosity and pathos in small “fits” has not been thrown off since Hood laid by pen and pun. Though no task is more hopeless (as we know by experience) than that of attempting to explain a pantomime to a foreigner, we yet cannot help fancying Scott translating these new chapters of ‘Ivanhoe’ to Cervantes on some sunny afternoon in the Elysian Fields when time hangs heavy among the asphodels.

If our memory deceive us not, this appendical history is an amplification of a sketch which appeared some years ago in *Fraser's Magazine*:—we must therefore quote charily. As regards the facts of the chronicle, it must suffice the reader here to be apprised that Rowena led poor Ivanhoe a rather hard life, “along of that



Jewess!"—and that domestic infelicity drove Sir Wilfrid to make a Continental tour under pretext of joining Richard Lion-heart before Chalus. Would not the reader like to see how Majesty grew old? The King's social disposition, his turn for manly exercises and fine arts, seem to have only ripened as years drew on. After the day's siege was over, a ball was held every night.—

"Then, after dancing, his Majesty must needs order a guitar, and begin to sing. He was said to compose his own songs, words, and music—but those who have read Lord Campobello's lives of the Lord Chancellors are aware that there was a person by the name of Blondel, who, in fact, did all the musical part of the King's performances; and, as for the words, when a King writes verses, we may be sure there will be plenty of people to admire his poetry. His Majesty would sing you a ballad, of which he had stolen every idea, to an air which was ringing on all the barrel-organs of Christendom, and turning round to his courtiers, would say, 'How do you like that? I dashed it off this morning.' Or, 'Blondel, what do you think of this movement in B flat?' or what not; and the courtiers and Blondel, you may be sure, would applaud with all their might, like hypocrites as they were. One evening, it was the evening of the 27th March, 1199, indeed, his Majesty, who was in the musical mood, treated the court with a quantity of his so-called compositions, until the people were fairly tired of clapping with their hands, and laughing in their sleeves. First he sang an original air and poem, beginning

Cherries nice, cherries nice, nice, come choose,  
Fresh and fair ones, who'll refuse? &c.

The which he was ready to take his affidavit he had composed the day before yesterday. Then he sang an equally original heroic melody, of which the chorus was

Rule Britannia, Britannia rules the sea,  
For Britons never, never, never, slaves shall be, &c.

The courtiers applauded this song as they did the other, all except Ivanhoe, who sat without changing a muscle of his features, until the King questioned him, when the knight with a bow said, 'he thought he had heard something very like the air and the words elsewhere.' His Majesty scowled at him a savage glance from under his red bushy eyebrows; but Ivanhoe had saved the royal life that day, and the King, therefore, with difficulty controlled his indignation. 'Well,' said he, 'by St. Richard and St. George but ye never heard this song, for I composed it this very afternoon as I took my bath after the mêlée. Did I not, Blondel?' \* \* \* Encore! Encore! Bravo! Bis! Everybody applauded the King's song with all his might; everybody except Ivanhoe, who preserved his abominable gravity: and when asked aloud by Roger de Backbite whether he had heard that too? said, firmly, 'Yes, Roger de Backbite, and so hast thou if thou darest but tell the truth.'—Now, by St. Cicely may I never touch gittern again,' bawled the King in a fury, 'if every note, word, and thought be not mine; may I die in to-morrow's onslaught if the song be not my song. Sing thyself, Wilfrid of the Lanthorn Jaws; thou couldst sing a good song in old times: and with all his might, and with a forced laugh, the king, who loved brutal practical jests, flung his guitar at the head of Ivanhoe. Sir Wilfrid caught it gracefully with one hand, and, making an elegant bow to the Sovereign, began to chant as follows:—

King Canute.

King Canute was weary-hearted; he had reigned for years a score;  
Battling, struggling, pushing, fighting, killing much and robbing more,  
And he thought upon his actions, walking by the wild sea shore.

Twixt the Chancellor and Bishop walked the King with steps sedate,  
Chamberlains and grooms came after, silver sticks and gold sticks great,  
Chaplains, aides-de-camp, and pages,—all the officers of state.

Sliding after like his shadow, pausing when he chose to pause;  
If a frown his face contracted, straight the courtiers dropped their jaws;  
If to laugh the King was minded, out they burst in loud hee-haws

But that day a something vexed him, that was clear to old and young,  
Thrice his Grace had yawned at table, when his favourite gleeman sung,  
Once the Queen would have consoled him, but he bade her hold her tongue.

"Something ails my gracious Master," cried the Keeper of the Seal,  
"Sure, my lord, it is the lampreys, served at dinner, or the veal!"  
"Psha!" exclaimed the angry Monarch, "Keeper, 'tis not that I feel.

"Tis the heart and not the dinner, fool, that doth my rest impair;  
Can a King be great as I am, prithce, and yet know no care?  
O, I'm sick, and tired, and weary."—Some one cried, "The King's arm-chair!"

Then towards the lackeys turning, quick my Lord the Keeper nodded,  
Straight the King's great chair was brought him, by two footmen able-bodied,  
Languidly he sank into it; it was comfortably wadded.

"Leading on my fierce companions," cried he, "over storm and brine,  
I have fought and I have conquered! Where was glory like to mine!"  
Loudly all the courtiers echoed, "Where is glory like to thine?"

"What avail me all my kingdoms? Weary am I now and old,  
Those fair sons I have begotten long to see me dead and cold;  
Would I were, and quiet buried, underneath the silent mould!

"O, remorse, the writhing serpent! at my bosom tears and bites;  
Horrid, horrid things I look on, though I put out all the lights;  
Ghosts of ghastly recollections troop about my bed of nights.

"Cities burning, convents blazing, red with sacrilegious fires,  
Mothers weeping, virgins screaming, vainly for their slaughtered sires—"  
—"Such a tender conscience," cries the Bishop, "every one admires.

"But for such unpleasant bygones, cease, my gracious Lord, to search,  
They're forgotten and forgiven by our holy Mother Church;  
Never, never does she leave her benefactors in the lurch.

"Look! the land is crowned with Ministers, which your Grace's bounty raised;  
Abbeys filled with holy men, where you and Heaven are daily praised;  
You, my lord, to think of dying? on my conscience, I'm amazed!"

"Nay, I feel," replied King Canute, "that my end is drawing near."

"Don't say so," exclaimed the courtiers (striving each to squeeze a tear),  
"Sure your Grace is strong and lusty, and may live this fifty year.

"Live these fifty years!" the Bishop roared, with actions made to suit,  
"Are you mad, my good Lord Keeper, thus to speak of King Canute?"

Men have lived a thousand years, and sure his Majesty will do 't.

"Adam, Enoch, Lamech, Cannan, Mahaleel, Methuselah,  
Lived nine hundred years apiece, and mayn't the King as well as they?"

"Perfently," exclaimed the Keeper, "perfently, I trust he may."

"He to die?" resumed the Bishop. "Hea mortal like to us? Death was not for him intended, though *communis omnibus*; Keeper, you are irreligious, for to talk and cavil thus.

"With his wondrous skill in healing ne'er a Doctor can compete,  
Loathsome lepers, if he touch them, start up clean upon their feet;  
Surely he could raise the dead up, did his Highness think it meet.

"Did not once the Jewish Captain stay the sun upon the hill,  
And, the while he slew the foe-man, bid the silver moon stand still?  
So, no doubt, could gracious Canute, if it were his sacred will."

"Might I stay the sun above us, good Sir Bishop?" Canute cried;  
Could I bid the silver moon to pause upon her heavenly ride?

If the moon obeys my orders, sure I can command the tide.  
"Will the advancing waves obey me, Bishop, if I make the sign!"

Said the Bishop, bowing lowly, "Land and sea, my lord, are thine."  
Canute turned towards the ocean—"Back!" he said, "thou foaming brine!"

"From the sacred shore I stand on, I command thee to retreat;  
Venture not, thou stormy rebel, to approach thy master's seat;  
Ocean, be thou still! I bid thee come not nearer to my feet!"

But the sullen ocean answered with a louder, deeper roar,  
And the rapid waves drew nearer, falling soundly on the shore:

Back the Keeper and the Bishop, back the King and Courtiers bore.  
And he sternly bade them never more to kneel to human clay,  
But alone to praise and worship That which earth and sea obey,  
And his golden crown of empire never wore he from that day.  
King Canute is dead and gone: Parasites exist always.

At this ballad, which, to be sure, was awfully long, and as grave as a sermon, some of the courtiers interposed, some yawned, and some affected to be asleep, and snore outright. But Roger de Backbite thinking to curry favour with the King by this piece of vulgarity, his Majesty fetched him a knock on the nose and a buffet on the ear, which, I warrant me, wakened Master Roger; to whom the King said, 'Listen and be civil, slave, Wilfrid is singing about thee.—Wilfrid, thy ballad is too long, but it is to the purpose, and I have grown cool during thy homily. Give me thy hand, honest friend. Ladies, good-night. Gentlemen, we give the grand assault to-morrow; when I promise thee, Wilfrid, thy banner shall not be before mine!—and the King giving his arm to her Majesty, retired into the private pavilion."

The above extract will answer our purpose of illustrating that there is wisdom under the cap and bells:—moreover, music in their jingle. And while we are talking of sweet sounds—seeing that the public has not had many opportunities of meeting with Mr. Titmarsh in verse, we will even strain a point for the sake of a trolly by him, which, though not super-sensational, is possibly not untrue in its moral.—

Love at Two Score.

Ho! pretty page, with dimpled chin,  
That never has known the barber's shears,  
All your aim is woman to win.  
This is the way that boys begin.

Wait till you've come to forty year,  
Curly gold locks cover foolish brains,  
Billing and cooing is all your cheer,  
Sighing and singing of midnight strains  
Under Bonnybella's window-panes.

Wait till you've come to forty year!  
Forty times over let Michaelmas pass,  
Grizzling hair the brain doth clear;  
Then you know a boy is an ass,  
Then you know the worth of a lass,  
Once you have come to forty year.

Pledge me round, I bid ye declare,  
All good fellows whose beards are grey,  
Did not the fairest of the fair  
Common grow, and wearisome, ere  
Ever a month was past away?

The reddest lips that ever have kissed,  
The brightest eyes that ever have shone,  
May pray and whisper and we not list,  
Or look away and never be missed,  
Ere yet over a month was gone.

Gillian's dead, Heaven rest her bier,  
How I loved her twenty years yore!  
Marian's married, but I sit here,  
Alive and merry at forty year.

Dipping my nose in the Gascon wine.

We now leave the entire Romance untouched for our readers to begin on.—Mr. R. Doyle has never been happier than in the court enthusiasm of the listeners to King Richard's guitar playing.

Young Troublesome; or, Master Jacky's Holidays, from the blessed moment of his leaving school to the identical moment of his going back again, showing how there never was such a boy as that boy. Designed and etched by John Leech.—Not Mr. Thackeray himself is more expert in describing the tyrannies of the Mother-in-law than Mr. Leech: but the latter gentleman is without peer in expressing the "terrors" to be suffered from terrible children. We recollect former designs of his the very sight of which has made our head ache, so over-brimming were they with turbulence; and to these may be added, from the present book, Master Jacky's domestic game of cricket,—his unheard performance of 'The Miller and his Men,' and the matin-service executed by himself and party above the head of Mr. Hornwood Scrubbs. Plate 10, also, is a pretty sig-



nificant hint, in three acts, to all "parents and guardians" possessing such a treasure, as to the manner in which dinner may be "dished," supposing them enterprising enough to give dinners while the hope of the family is at home for the holidays. In fact, we feel as if this book were enough to breed a riot among the solemn literature and fine art under which "our table groans." Let us shut it up! "Young Troublesome" is no laughing matter.

Another comicality for Christmas is the review of Mr. Richard Doyle's *Manners and Customs of the English*, with Mr. Percival Leigh's *Extracts from Mr. Pips his Diary*; both collected from the last pages of *Punch*, printed on finer paper, and clad in a gay cobalt binding—such as would have made the old original gossip's heart glad to see. Of the merits of both the designs and their illustrations "the town" has been talking this good six months past. Mr. Doyle has a shrewd eye for the weak side of artistic dilettantism as at present existing. He can manage to throw his figures out of drawing with as proportionate a disproportion, and to disarrange his groups with as incongruous a congruity, as if he were one of the dear, earnest, simple, old, mediæval souls whom we are peremptorily ordered by certain good folks not only to admire but also to imitate.—Mr. Leigh has caught the humour of his original very adroitly:—and the volume makes a lively table-book, full of curiosities which will repay a first, second, and third study.

*Episodes of Insect Life.* Second Series. By Acheta Domestica, M.E.S. Reeve & Co.

We gladly welcome back to our fireside our old friend, Acheta Domestica,—with all his gravity, and fun, and incident, and moral from the insect world. We must confess that our entomological friends have greatly the advantage of the rest of the genus Naturalist in their power of amusing and arresting attention by their details of the strange habits and wondrous wisdom of the insect creation. These creatures seem in their instincts and actions to mimic all other tribes of animals; and in many of the nice arrangements by which they prepare for the welfare of their young, their protection from cold, the storing of food, and the erection of complicated dwellings, they leave far behind them the rest of the animal kingdom,—fore-shadowing the existence and tendencies of man himself. What a world this would be if insects, with their muscular and other powers in a like proportion to their bulk, were enlarged to the size of men and other animals,—is amusingly portrayed by our author in a chapter entitled, "A Summer Day's Dream." Acheta, on a warm day in July, is sitting, sleepily inclined, under a tree.—

"At this moment a host—not of angels but of blood-thirsty demons in the shape of gnats,—rose from the adjacent pond, and passed across our face. Using our book as a weapon of destruction, we felled a multitude to the earth; and, in completion of our angry purpose, trampled many of our fallen victims into the dusty ground. Scarcely had we done the deed, when something like a quail of conscience, arising partly from our penchant for gnats before recorded, partly from the magnifying turn our thoughts had taken, shot through our heart. It passed, however, as rapidly away as the remnant of the insect host, whose enjoyment we had so murderously interrupted; and in a few minutes the drowsy incubus which had so long hovered over our head fairly wrapped us in its leaden wings—in short, we fell asleep. Still our waking fancies followed us. It seemed as though one of the gnats we had just exterminated rose from the ground, and, poised in air on a level with our face, set up a shrill hum, which presently assumed the distinctness of angry hoarse speech. 'By what right,' cried the little

apparition, 'didst thou cut short the thread of my life?'—'Because,' answered we, 'as one of creation's lords, we have the privilege of destroying everything that invades our peace.'—'And by what right art thou lord of creation?'—'By the right of reason.'—'Reason!' exclaimed the insect ghost; 'say rather by right of size.' Only let my stature equal thine, and see which would then possess the mastery!' As the winged phantom thus addressed us, her tiny form expanded, her long hairy shanks stretching downwards reached the ground, and upwards waved like spectral arms above our head; her enormous eyes, motionless and prominent, seemed bursting with malignant spleen; her antlers quivered with rage, and pointing towards us her blood extracting weapon, straight and long as the stiletto of Italian bandit, she seemed about to plunge it in our heart! We started to our feet in terror; and at that instant a sudden gloom, as of coming twilight, overspread the sky, while the flapping of the canvass of ten thousand vessels proceeded from a winged multitude, monstrous now in bulk as in number, filled the air. Attempting to escape, we nearly stumbled over—not a stone—but an enormous beetle (bigger than the biggest turtle ever captured on the shores of the Antilles), and only regained our footing to tread upon the loathsome yielding body of a caterpillar swollen to a serpent's size, and rolling its mutilated length about our ankles. All around the darkened day-light presented only similar objects, half revealed: ground, grass, flower, shrub and tree, all laden or crushed by living masses through which we had, if possible, to force our way in order to gain the shelter of our roof. Armed by desperation, we continued to advance;—and what an advance it was! Pierced by poisoned arrows, swords and spears, in the shape of what, as stings, we once despised,—lacerated by forced jaws armed with shark-like teeth,—bruised by violent contact with the mail-clad limbs of grasshopper Goliaths and beetle Bevis's—deafened and bewildered by sounds most strange and threatening, and of volume augmented in proportion to their utterer's bulk—we ran the gauntlet through this infernal crew, and at length, when almost exhausted, reached our door. But entrance was even then not easy, for our portal was barricaded by thick silken ropes stretched across in all directions. Unable to break, we contrived to sever them with our pocket-knife; but (horror of horrors!) no sooner were the cords divided, than rapidly descending by one of them which hung loose above our heads, a spider, big as a baboon, alighted on our shoulders, and made her long hairy legs meet around our neck. By a desperate effort we threw off our disgusting burthen, and opening the house door, shut it with all possible celerity; but one of the spider's arms, stretched out to renew her grasp, crackled like a lobster's claw as we jammed it betwixt door and door-frame. As we entered our parlour a deafening buzz was our first salutation, and the day-light, obscured as it was without, could here scarcely penetrate at all by reason of a swarm of gigantic flies, which, unable to find room in the window, were crowding in double and triple ranks around it. Hastily retreating, we descended to the kitchen; but here—how shall we proceed? We had escaped with life from the hideous assemblage through which we had achieved a passage. We had managed to avoid the fangs of the murderous bloated creatures which had fastened upon our door, and then fastened upon us. We had shut her out, and we had shut in the swollen sickening blue-bottles! but what we had left behind was nothing to what awaited us—an appalling horror which we shudder to describe. On entering the kitchen we saw not a living thing, not even Martha—old Martha—our faithful factotum, upon whom we called, albeit in a trembling voice, fearful to attract the notice of some hidden lurker amongst our new and hideous enemies; but no Martha replied, as expected, from the scullery; and, with a dread of we scarce knew what, we high exhausted also by terror and exertion, we sat us down in her arm-chair. The sky was still partially obscured by monstrous creatures on the wing, and evening was now approaching, so that there was but little light in the apartment but what proceeded from the fire, which had burnt very low. We had not been seated long before we were startled by a slight noise proceeding from one of the deep

and dark recesses on either side the chimney; and on looking into it, we could just discern indistinctly some moving object. What this might be we dreaded to ascertain; but with a shaking hand we lit a candle by the dying embers, and held it up within the recess. Then, oh! the spectacle that we held! Supported by her enormous web—a tissue of mingled cable—sat an elephantine spider, to which our assailant at the house-door was a mere pigmy,—a spider of most hideous aspect, her eight glassy eyes sparkling with greedy ecstasy as she gorged upon a fresh-caught, fresh-killed victim, and that victim no heedless, idle fly, but alas! that busy bee, Martha—our faithful Martha! For a moment we stood horror stricken; then armed by rage and grief and the kitchen poker, we rushed upon the loathsome murderer, who, intent upon her prey, heeded not our approach, and, with a single blow, brought her bloated lifeless body to the ground, that of her victim falling with it. What a night of terror did we pass, holding our vigil by the dead; but we held it not alone, for beside poor Martha's hearth, mocking or mourning its desolation, sat a monstrous cricket, piercing our ear and heart with his shrilly chirp; while at intervals—loud as the ticking of a church-clock—rose the warning click of an enormous death-watch. Two dreadful days had passed over, at the end of which the prospect out of doors was completely changed. Every tree and herb were stripped of their foliage—every blade of grass mown down. The air was no longer laden with gigantic flutterers, nor, as before, did the ground seem alive with crawling monsters. Nearly all the devouring creatures whose aliment consisted of herbivorous products, having almost exhausted their store of provision, had either perished for want of food, or fallen a prey to carnivorous enemies of their kind. The ant-lion had left his pit-fall—the spider her snare, artifice being no longer needed to entrap her exhausted victims—the wasp rified without combat the shrunken honeybag of the starveling bee—the dragon-fly glutted his voracious maw on expiring butterflies—and, like a hideous Goule battenning at midnight on the dead, the cockroach crawled forth with the shades of evening, and polluted the air with his offensive odour, while he made his disgusting meal unseen and unmolested. Amidst this abhorrent crew,—some of whose gigantic forms occasionally crossed our window—we could not perceive a single human being, or one domestic quadruped or bird. The latter had no doubt been nearly exterminated by parasitic and blood-sucking infesters turned from mites to monsters, with appetites augmented in proportion to their bulk. As for our fellow men, we could only conclude, that what with the ravages of swollen vermin of the like description, the wounds of monstrous biters and stingers, lack of food and terror, numbers had been brought to a fearful end; while others, hidden within the temporary and partial shelter of their houses, were probably awaiting a fate such as must soon inevitably befall ourself."

As in the last series, so in this our author has abundantly availed himself (or herself) of the materials of human history to illustrate particular families and species by tales and anecdotes. A well-told tale of this kind in the present volume is that of "The Baron and the Butterfly,"—in which the first thought of a possible higher existence is suggested to a sensual, burly baron by the changes of the caterpillar into a butterfly. There is also a tale of love, jealousy, and revenge, in which the Italian fire-fly, *La Lucciola*, is made to play a sad part.—Here is the end of the story of an old gentleman who lived at Providence Cottage, and kept in a glass case white roses and red lady-birds. His only daughter was on her death-bed.—

"'I've brought my Rachel a pretty nosegay,' said he, as he stooped forward to kiss her, and laid the flowers on the coverlid. The child grasped them in her little thin fingers, raised them to her faded face. 'Stay, darling, there's a lady-bird on that white rose, let me put it out.'—'Oh, pretty lady-bird!' cried the little girl, her large sunken eyes lighting up for a moment with childish delight. 'No, let me keep it, only all to-day; and to-morrow I'll take it out myself, and bid it fly away home, as

poor mamma 'as often told me.' But suppose it should please to fly away to-day, how can my little Rachel help it?—'Oh, I'll put it in a box, and give it nice green leaves, as many it can eat, and—' Poor Rachel's voice was not strong enough to complete the list of luxuries she would have promised her prisoner in lieu of liberty; but as if already bribed to quietude, the insect, which had hitherto been describing circles round the rose, stood still near its centre. Delighted to find his little nursling well enough (for the first time in four days) to notice and seem amused by anything, the father separated the white rose from the other flowers, and placing it on a table at the foot of the bed, inverted a tumbler over it. 'There, sweet one,' said he, 'your lady-bird is safe.' The child was satisfied, and went to sleep again, thinking of her pleasure in letting it fly to-morrow. When that morning came, no daylight was allowed to penetrate through the darkened window of the chamber where the lady-bird still occupied its crystal prison, for the little child who was to have bid it fly—her innocent spirit had taken its own flight home—was beholding the face of her Father in heaven, while he who had been her father on earth was kissing the pale lips through which that spirit had departed—besieging, as it were, in bitter bereavement the doors of that clay prison house from whence the captive was just set free.

The funeral was over: the chief—the only mourner stood in the unwelcome daylight just admitted, beside the bed on which he had seen depart, successively, the two who had made life dear—he stood alone in the room—alone in the hard mocking world. On the table—under the glass—just where it had been placed to please the innocent eyes which would never again reward with a smile his labours of love—lay the white rose he had gathered on the morning before his little one died. For lack of water the flower had withered even before her cheek was cold, and now the lapse of a week had turned it brown and shrivelled. But though there was no life within the rose, there was life about it—near it. The captive lady-bird still survived; and as if shrinking from contact with the vegetable death, was traversing uneasily the sides of the tumbler. The mourner's eye followed the motions of the insect. It was something living to look at when all else to him seemed dead. It was the last object except himself, on which his little Rachel had smiled,—perhaps the last save himself, on which her thoughts had wandered. Remember the Bastile prisoner and his spider; Silvio Pellico with his. Their hearts could cling even to a loathsome object, because they were alone—shut out from communion with human life and human love; yet they, in the world beyond their prison walls, had other lives bound up with theirs—other hearts with which theirs, at least in fancy, could hold fond intercourse and hope to meet again on earth. The bereaved father was more alone than they. Care, and poverty, and scorn, anxiety and grief, had made him weak in body and in mind, perhaps childish—perhaps doating in his desolation. He kept the dead rose, and he also kept the living lady-bird—watched it—tended it—even till he loved and missed it, when it too died.

And this was the reason why our old gentleman, who at Providence Cottage had no garden, kept in a glass-case white roses and red lady-birds.

Although the direct uses to man of so vast a creation as that of the unnumbered species of insects are few, yet the indirect benefit which he derives from their existence is large. They are one of the forms of life which stand between the vegetable kingdom and large classes of animals that are not vegetable feeders. The insect appropriates vegetable matter that could not be taken up by any other form of animal; while in the form of the insect, reptiles, birds and mammals of various kinds obtain nearly the whole of their subsistence,—many of these being in their turn consumed by man. Thus, some portions of the protein that is worked into the muscles and nerves of man's proud frame may one day have served the same purpose in the body of an insect. Much as this

family is despised and derided, even a cockney walking in the fields in the summer would feel if they were absent that the scene was incomplete. The sounds of insects, though often suggestive of alarm, constitute a true minstrelsy of the woods:—on which Acheta thus discourses.—

"To descend to present times and native performers, first, there is our own familiar and representative, the *Hearth Cricket*, for whose crinkling chirp even we can scarcely challenge much intrinsic merit, yet do we regard it as a song, and a merry one; and why? because the faggot always crackles, and the kettle sings, if not in actual, in imaginative chorus. In like manner, the music of the *Cricket's* country cousin (of the field), or that of the *Grasshopper*, though designated by some, of more critical ear than pleasant temperament, 'a disagreeable crink,' can never grate harshly upon either ear or heart which are in themselves attuned to Nature's harmonies; for to these, as it rises from the dewy ground, it assumes the tone of an evening hymn of happiness, mingled in memory if not in hearing with evening bells and the shouts of emancipated village children. For the revival, doubtless, of some such associate memories, even the grave Spaniard is said to keep these insects after the manner of birds of song; and those that like it may do the same in England, Gilbert White assuring us, on trial of the experiment, that the field cricket, while supplied with moist green leaves, will sing as merrily in a paper cage as in a grassy field. To the man of transparent skin and opaque fancy—or no fancy at all—the hum of the *Gnat* is suggestive, we know, of nothing but angry cheeks and swollen temples, with corresponding sounds of pshaw! and buffets; but to those who are less outwardly but more inwardly sensitive, the 'horn' even of this insect blood-hunter is not without its melody, with sylvan accompaniments, such as the ploughboy's whistle 'o'er the lea,' and the gurgle of pebbly brooks, red in the glowing sunset. When and where-soever a bee may happen to flit, humming past us, he is even near an apiary in the Adelpi, or a balcony hive at Hammersmith, is one not borne at once upon her musical wings to the side of some heathy hill; and does one not forthwith hear in concert the bleating of flocks, the bursting of ripened furze-pods, and the blithe carol of the rising skylark? or, our thoughts taking a turn more homely, we listen in fancy to the sound of tinkling cymbal played by rejoicing housewife to celebrate and accompany the aerial march of a departing swarm. Thus sweet and infinitely varied is the concert of concordant sounds, all of the allegro character, which may be assembled for the pleasing of the mental ear, even by the simple and single, and passing strains of the above and other insects which make melody in their mirth; and then how numerous are the correspondent images—glowing, smiling, dancing, waving, glittering—which are wont at their bidding to be conjured up before the mental eye! Glowing embers—smiling flowers—dancing leaves—waving cornfields—glittering waters—all intermingled in a haze of merry motion—an imaged dance of life got up within 'the chamber of the mind,' at the stirring of, sometimes, but a note of Nature's living music. But besides the sensations of involuntary pleasure which we have often owed, without knowing it, to Insect Minstrelsy, it affords (though on this subject few perhaps ever think) matter for thought-inquiry, concerning the way in which it is produced. It is all of an instrumental and not vocal character; and, among the varied mechanisms of natural objects, the instruments of sound furnished to insect musicians are none of the least curious. That of the celebrated *Cicada* (the classic lyre player)—an insect rarely seen in England, but still common in the south of Europe,—consists, as described by *Reaumur*, of a pair of drums fixed one on each side of the trunk; these are covered on the exterior by two membranaceous plates, usually circular or oval; and beneath them is a cavity, part of which seems to open into the belly. These drums form however but one portion of a compound instrument; for besides these, there is attached to another drum-like membrane in the interior a bundle of muscular strings; on pulling which, and letting them go again, a sound can be produced even after

the animal's death. For the issue of this sound a hole is expressly provided, like the sound-hole of a violin, or the opening in the human larynx. The chirp of the cricket, both of house and field, is, by Kirby, to be produced by the friction of the bases of the tegmina, or wing-cases, against each other, at their base; but these insects are also provided with their drums. In the large green field cricket this drum is described as a round plate of transparent membrane tensely stretched, and surrounded by a prominent edge, or nervure. The instrument is to be found in that part of the right wing-case which is folded horizontally over the trunk, and is concealed under the left, in which also there is a strong circular nervure corresponding to the hoop of the drum beneath. The quick motion with which these nervures are rubbed together producing a vibration in the membrane, is supposed to augment the sound. What we call familiarly the singing or chirping of grasshoppers and locusts, is outwardly produced by application of the hind shank to the thigh, rubbing it smartly against the wing-cases, and alternating the right and left legs; but these, as well as the cicada and the cricket, are provided with their 'petits tambours,'—membrane-covered drums, or cavities of somewhat varied construction, to augment the sound of exterior origin. Be it here observed, that the above-named professors of the 'joyeuse science'—the cicada lyre-players—the crickets of our field and household bands—the roving grasshopper troubadours, are all, like the feathered minstrels of grove and garden, of the masculine sex; each doubtless playing his mid-day sonata, or evening serenade, with intent mainly to tickle the ear and fancy of his listening lady. On the muteness of the latter was founded a sly joke on the Xantippes of antiquity, which is equally applicable both to scolding and to musical matrons of the present day. 'Happy,' says *Zenachus the Rhodian*,

Happy the cicadas live,  
Since they all have noiseless wives!"

Thus agreeably does Acheta speak of his (or her) favourites.—In conclusion, we have only to add that the vignettes are as beautifully executed as those of the first series; and that the tail-pieces, though not equal to the vignettes—perhaps not to those of the last series—in execution, are quite as amusing and instructive as the former ones.

#### CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE. [Second Notice.]

THE results which have been reached in our search after remedial measures admit of a four-fold division, and may be classified as—1. Practical amendments in the existing laws and usages of the country mainly affecting property—2. Modifications of our fiscal system—3. The introduction of new methods of procedure into our attempts to diminish and to prevent pauperism—4. Radical changes in the political constitution of the country.—Embraced under each of these divisions there is a numerous group of propositions more or less valuable and more or less specific. It would be a formidable, and for our present purpose an useless, effort to attempt even a catalogue of all these schemes;—and we shall sufficiently attain our object by pointing out the most prominent subjects in each category. In the first place, there is a negative consolation in becoming acquainted with the extensive and diversified means of alleviation which may be brought within our reach by alterations of law and usage little more than technical:—at the same time, we are quite sensible of the extreme difficulty of accomplishing thoroughly any reform of this nature. Mankind are so generally under the dominion of habit,—and the *vis inertia* of pursuing even a vicious practice after it has been shown to be vicious, because to substitute something better would be irksome and a novelty, is so powerful,—that an innovator has often more success in framing a new system than in remodelling an old. It would be presumptuous, therefore, to hope that the



progress of our technical reforms will be so rapid as to suffice of themselves materially to assuage the evils against which we have to contend. And yet, how fair the inheritance is which expands in this direction before an ardent and adventurous spirit; it will be easy to show. We may safely place first on the list of legal hindrances to be removed, the expensive and intricate form of the titles to land and to all real property.—After these are perhaps to be placed those new and extensive laws required for the efficient preservation of the public health—the necessity for which has been proved by recent sanitary investigations. These laws in the end must embrace all needful powers of supervision over the construction of houses as well as over the condition of streets.—There are then, the alterations which have been so long agitated as to the tenure of farms: and sooner or later, either by positive enactment or by general agreement, the question of leases and tenant-right must receive a settlement.—The laws prescribing the relief of the poor are susceptible of many improvements. The rules which regulate the settlement and removal of paupers ought to produce fewer mischiefs than arise out of them at present; and it seems to be only reasonable that the Union, at least for these purposes, should be selected in preference to the parish. The rating of small tenements to the poor-rate, as an obstacle to the erection of better cottages, requires revision: and although the proposal of Mr. Scrope to exempt all tenements under 5*l.* a year from the assessment is not free from several objections, it is perhaps the best compromise that can be obtained.—The enforcement of some stringent measure of reform in all grammar schools cannot surely be much longer delayed. There is also an urgent need of systematic amendment in the whole of the laws which apply to life insurance, to friendly societies, to trading combinations among the poorer classes, and to the remedies of joint-stock partners against each other.—It is not easy to over-estimate the practical value of a clear and precise state of the law on these subjects. And lastly, there is every reason to believe that if a usage could be established among the owners of land of encouraging the growth of a peasant tenantry—if on leases, so much the better—an improvement of the most striking kind would be accomplished, and this quite irrespective of any compulsory introduction of peasant holdings.

Under the second head, of modifications in the fiscal system of the country, the propositions are also numerous; and they are directed to two principal objects:—(1), To lessen the cost of food; and (2), To increase the demand for labour by offering every facility to the importation of raw materials,—and by promoting a more extensive foreign trade, on the one hand by the reduced price of our fabrics, and on the other by the enlarged consumption in this country of commodities of foreign growth. The changes in our commercial legislation which have taken place since 1842 have already given the sanction of law to many of the most important reforms at one time embraced under this division. The importation of raw materials is perfectly free; the importation of cattle, sheep, and provisions is also free; and the duties on coffee, sugar, and some other articles of tropical production have been considerably reduced. The fate of the corn laws is familiar to us all. Still, there are many fiscal questions unsettled. There are, an import duty of 200 per cent. on tea,—an equally oppressive customs and excise assessment on tobacco,—a tax on windows,—a tax on soap,—a tax on malt:—all of which have been abundantly proved to exert a pernicious influence over the poorer classes. It is not to

be supposed that the revenue obtained from these taxes can be relinquished without at the same time placing an impost, or a series of imposts, of equal productiveness on some other taxable surface. With many political economists of the highest reputation, it is no small recommendation of the fiscal changes just pointed out, that they would compel us to resort more extensively to direct taxation as the principal means of carrying on the government of the country.

We arrive now at that third part of the classification which treats of the introduction of new methods of procedure into our public policy with reference to the cure and prevention of pauperism: and there is little room for doubt that whatever striking measure of success may attend our efforts, will be derived chiefly from the wisdom with which we select and the energy with which we pursue the means of succour opened to us in this direction. With an unanimity which, taken by itself, constitutes no ordinary claim on the attention, nearly every writer of eminence who has discussed these questions has declared himself an advocate of Colonization, either home or foreign. Mr. John Mill has signalled his recent treatise throughout by the emphatic language and the scientific form in which he has treated this question—giving it his fullest support in both branches. Mr. Thornton, in his volume on Over Population, has taken great, and in general successful, pains to establish the commercial soundness of the plan which proceeds chiefly on the reclamation of waste lands within the United Kingdom, by the establishment upon them of colonies of peasant proprietors, to whose industry and motives of self-interest would be committed the double task, of raising themselves and their children above the condition of mendicants, and of rendering fertile and prosperous tracts of country now desolate as a wilderness, and the abode of crime, vice and famine. Mr. Poulet Scrope entertains views similar to those held by Mr. Thornton; and in the pamphlet named at the head of this article he has ventured to contend, on the strength of facts which he has himself investigated, that in many of those rural communities where the poor-rate is most oppressive the labouring population cannot truly be said to be redundant,—if by redundancy we imply a state of things in which the land under no scheme of cultivation compatible with morality and order can be made to support the present amount of population. Theoretically, therefore, colonisation is by far the chief remedy of which we have any knowledge. There is already a vast stream of colonisation directing itself from these islands to the American and the Australian continents. In 1847 and 1848 the total voluntary emigration of each year amounted to a quarter of million of persons,—and in 1849 it has been still more extensive. In a very able paper communicated by Mr. Danson to the recent meeting at Birmingham, [see *ante*, p. 972,] attention was properly directed to the influence of such a vast emigration in the increase of the home population; and there seems to be good reason for believing, with the writer, that the effect of an emigration equal in magnitude to that of the last three years would in a great measure neutralize the increase from the usual excess of births. But that is not by any means all that is required. The voluntary emigration now in progress has an influence on the mother country which operates in two very distinct ways. It relieves the pressure of numbers on the one hand,—but on the other it carries off no small part of those energetic spirits and those dexterous hands which, occurring among the mass of the people, elevate those who possess them into lights and leaders within their immediate

circles. It carries off also no small proportion of those small capitals which, acquired by industry and patience, are turned to the most active and profitable uses by those who own them. Neither of these are advantages that we can afford to have diminished; yet an extensive voluntary emigration can be sustained only by the resources obtained by such a diminution. A perfect scheme of colonization would also, but not only those active members of the old country and so large a part of its working capital,—but also a fair proportion of those indigent persons who have nothing but the rudest kind of labour to offer in exchange for a rude species of plenty. In the midst of a society which has no pathless wildernesses to reclaim, and where men have almost abandoned the country for the town, this kind of labour is in excess; but in a new country, where the evils to be guarded against are rather those of dispersion than those of concentration of labour and resources, the presence of a class of persons capable of enduring great toil and unable from their want of means to become at once independent farmers, is of the most vital consequence to the progress of the settlement. In their due proportion these are the persons who would be most conspicuously benefited by a comprehensive Government plan; and it is pretty certain that only by such a plan can they be in any way rendered serviceable to themselves and to their country in a colonial sphere. There would, of course, be great abuses—at all events at first—in the management of a State scheme of emigration. Men would obtain free passages who could very well afford to pay for them out of their own funds, and impostures of an endless variety of shades would be practised. But the fear of these comparative failures must not deter us from making the important attempt. There is perfect success for no enterprise that can be suggested:—least of all is there room for fastidiousness when the evils to be escaped from are so positive and so patent as those connected with increasing crime and a progressive poor-rate.

We can afford only to mention that the other principal suggestions under this head are those directed to the provision of a better education for the poorer classes,—to a reform in the management of our colonial possessions,—and to the preparation of new fields of colonization by the application of the labour of convicts. Conducted with vigour and judgment, the last-mentioned scheme ought to yield very favourable results; and there is one of our colonies so admirably fitted by its isolation, its want of inhabitants, and its geographical position, to become a penal colony—we allude to the Falkland Islands—that we may reasonably expect to see it almost the first in the list of places set apart for such an experiment.

We have nothing to say in this place of the panaceas supposed to be contained in the political changes alluded to in the fourth and last group on our list. We have placed these changes last because they are the most radical in their nature,—and because, involving as they do, extreme diversities of opinion, they offer the most uncertain and perhaps the least efficacious means of meeting a difficulty which is complicated and urgent.

As far as the scope of our design permits, we have now gone over most of the ground that we intended to traverse. There is little danger that the topics of which we have endeavoured to give an outline will be superseded by others,—or lose the influence which they have already begun to exert so sensibly wherever the pressure of actual difficulties and the eriority of the human mind have led men to speculate on the prospects of the future and the means of



alleviating the distresses of the present. In no other class of public questions are there so many circumstances conspiring to arouse the attention, sharpen the acuteness, stimulate the invention, and appeal to the candour of so many orders of men as in those which concern the treatment and diminution of a pauper class. Under the pressure of such an evil it is impossible to be indifferent. Assailed on all sides by the urgent claims of whole classes of people suffering from absolute want, from inadequate food, from insufficient and ill-paid employment, from the epidemic diseases of poverty, from the consequences of dissipation and crime, and from the despondency which is engendered by perpetual ill-success,—threatened with the dangers which arise in such a state of things, from the greedy reception of violent and incendiary schemes of political agitation—of gross and flagitious perversions of morality and religion—and of the wicked and revolutionary doctrine of an equality of possessions being the only just criterion of an equality of rights surrounded with such stimulants to activity, it can excite no surprise that these social questions have become the greatest political theme of our time. The *Morning Chronicle* has shown its patriotism and discrimination by undertaking a systematic inquiry into the present condition of Labour and of the Poor in the metropolis, the manufacturing districts, and the rural parishes: and, we are bound to say that very seldom have the delicate and difficult duties of such an inquiry been discharged with so much feeling and ability,—or the facts which it has laid bare been communicated to the world in a more interesting and unexceptionable form. We shall regard ourselves in no small degree fortunate if we have succeeded in directing the thoughts of a single energetic and dispassionate person to the pursuit of remedies which can in the remotest manner assuage any of the acute forms of suffering brought to light by the special correspondents of our contemporary; and what is quite as important, if we can arouse in any degree among the wealthier classes of the community an adequate idea of the explosive elements which hem them in on every side. For we shall commit a desperate error if we exclude from our calculation those special causes of impatience, exasperation and discontent which exert an influence upon populations who—living in the midst of a society distinguished by great wealth, great knowledge, great freedom, and by the profession of a religion which exalts the claims and points in all its precepts and solemnities to the virtues of the poor—yet feel themselves to be effectually cut off, for no fault of their own, from the commonest privileges of their nature,—and who have penetrated just far enough within the portals of the temple of knowledge to catch an imperfect glimpse and receive a perverted and dangerous version of the truths that are taught within.

## ALMANACS, &amp;c. FOR 1850.

A few days after the date of our present publication, the new Almanacs will have come into service;—and as most of them, in addition to those which we have already noticed, are now assembled on our table, we will take the opportunity of introducing them collectively to our readers.

But amid the goodly array there is a blank. The loudest and least musical voice among the prophets is silent for us. Where is *Zadkiel*?—Hath the "fine frenzy" forsaken him? Hath he ceased to read the heavens, and paint their revelations in unimaginable blotches of red and yellow and blue? Is there a strike amid the stars,—and have they abandoned their old master?—Or, is the "day of dupes" past,—and has *Zadkiel* retired from his trade of prophecy for want of customers?—We suppose there may still be those in the world who will be glad to know that it

is not so. *Zadkiel* lives,—though not, it may be feared, "in clover." He hath not ceased to read the stars,—but the *Athenæum*. He refuses to have his metal assayed,—declines an audit of his marvellous accounts.—In a word, we have not ourselves seen him this Christmas:—but, for the comfort of the credulous, we have tidings of him from a friend who has kindly interested himself in the Seer, with us, on former occasions. *Zadkiel* has been to market, as usual, among the planets, and has laid in a choice assortment of "skiey influences" for all the year. His stock of meteors is, we believe, on the accustomed scale of liberality,—and his portents are offered at prices conformable to the great resources and easy working of his manufactory. Signs of the strangest fashion are to be had on terms which with one less practised in their production would amount almost to a "sacrifice." Still, in the report of our correspondent we fancy we detect symptoms of a weakness in the market. The greatest marvel of all the marvels produced by *Zadkiel*—and to himself by far the most important—would seem to be badly made up for the market. Our correspondent, it will be seen, has a shrewd insinuation against the extent of his sale.

Two years ago you permitted me to direct attention to Mr. Astrologer *Zadkiel*. I said then that my copy of his Almanac was announced as one of the eighteenth thousand. This year, there is "Twentieth Yearly Edition" on the top of his title-page, and "Twentieth Thousand" in the middle. Twentieth Thousand is paraded conspicuously in his advertisements. I bought the almanac this year as soon as it was hatched. On examining *Zadkiel's* Preface, aided by this experience, it appears clear that he counts each successive almanac as a new edition of the same work—and would lead us, at the same time, to believe that he is counting new editions of the same yearly issue. It is as if some weekly newspaper, reckoning each week's paper as a new edition, advertised itself to an astonished public—in the case of the *Examiner*, for instance,—as the 2,100th edition. By just such a process, apparently, has *Zadkiel* succeeded in his design of getting credit for a sale which draws attention to his movements. Yet, this is clumsy conjuring. A bagman whose journey he among the stars should be more sharp. *Zadkiel* says this year, that "it is impossible for the foes of Astrology to hope against" his great fact of 20,000 purchasers. I am disposed to think that a sale of only 1,000 yearly copies of an almanac published at a low price and considerably advertised will scarcely find the sale in spectacles. Certainly it will not furnish him with the 100l. which he professes to have distributed during the past year in prizes of hard cash among his purchasers. Horary inquiries, &c. must be lucrative, if the almanac be worth supporting at that cost. *Zadkiel* complained that I almost called him a cheat:—you asked what the laws call him. Now, if the above suggestions be correct, let it be asked of him—What does he call himself?—I am, &c.

H. M.

One of the rivals of *Zadkiel* in the same line of business shows a most melancholy assortment of goods on the present occasion. The prophet fashions for 1850 exhibited in *Raphael's* *Prophetic Almanac* are extremely disheartening, as regards both shapes and colours. Strife in Spring,—sorrow and sickness in Summer,—anarchy and anguish in Autumn,—woe, waste and want in winter:—get by heart this pleasing prophecy, arranged in familiar form, you innocent and credulous readers! and you need not buy *Raphael*.—If one tittle of his tale be true, the saving of half-a-crown against a rainy day is an economy worth effecting. This economy is to be the more recommended because *Raphael* has not a single new trick this year. His hieroglyphic frontispiece (drawn by Fussell) is ghastly enough. *Time*, painted a good black "warranted not to wash out," is clothed in a mazarine blue cloak: he stands upon a ram, surrounded by houses on fire.—Then we have a young lady who bears a Vauxhall likeness to *Her Majesty* or *Mlle. Jenny Lind* (we are not sure which) waving two cabalistic banners,—a shower of gold rain falling upon China,—*Britannia* in a badly-made corset and cherry coloured petticoat, &c. &c. &c. &c.—Was nothing newer than these well-used objects to be had? Why, there are *rebuses* published once a fortnight in the Parisian *Journal des Modes* which are twice as difficult to interpret—twenty times as peculiar. Mr. Fussell has nodded this time.—Then, *Raphael's* patent elastic predictions! What are these in spirit and point compared with the Revelations of the Bolton *Somnambule*?—We half intended to extract, for the guidance of literary men, the list of lucky days expressly devoted to them by our Seer: days of milk and honey,—when Pactolus is to run down Paternoster Row and New Beneficence is to shine forth in New Burlington Street!—But on turning to our guide's justification of Prediction by Fulfilment during

the past year—we relinquished the purpose. When we saw that "Venus forming a trine aspect with Jupiter" meant Miss Lydia Selton complimented by the Bishop of Exeter,—when we read that "the Sun in Gemini receiving the sextile aspect of Jupiter" prefigured "Mr. Hume's motion for the extension of the franchise,"—when, most wondrous of all, we perceived that "Saturn" being "stationary" indicated "Cholera" pursuing "a steady but fatal course,"—confidence waxed weak within us. Let no brother of the pen expect five thousand pounds for his tragedy on February the 2nd of next year—or look for an annuity from "the tale of thrilling interest" which he may take to market on the third or the eighteenth of May,—on the faith of *Raphael the Prophet*!

The *Fox Stellarum* of that ancient worthy, Francis Moore, Physician, comes out this year but timidly. "Some nations," according to the oracle, it appears, "are making preparations for war—others for peace."—"The changes of the weather will affect people of delicate constitutions."—"The head of the mercurial nation will continue a subject of anxiety to crowned heads."—There are to happen "some striking events in some parts of Europe."—"It will be well for us to keep out of hot water."—Such are the more portentous warnings, for the coming year, of this ancient authority. We warn "Mr. Moore" and his masters of the worshipful Company of Stationers that this weakness will betray them into ruin. Who will care to give honest coin of the realm for such feeble fashions? If they will continue their old trade of selling folly and falsehood, they must deal in stronger terms. That love of the marvellous which makes a market for such wares as Francis Moore and *Zadkiel* Toatze, under the fostering care of the city company, produce—must have more stimulating food than is here supplied. Mild impudence and meek imposture will find no permanent public. The exposure already made seems to have partly shamed the Hall into sinking the astrological pretensions under which a patronage for their venture was asked; but they have not dared to put away the absurdity altogether. This is puerile. Do the Stationers suppose that deception is not as reprehensible when practised with a simper, humbly and modestly, as when uttered with the bold front of the unblinking charlatan. With *Zadkiel* Toatze we can command our patience. He wears his imposture on his sleeve—prints it conspicuously on his card—may half believe in it himself; but Francis Moore has a sneaking way of inserting his false jargon between phrases of real science,—and gets his mischief into circulation, as the Irishman did his bad sixpence, by laying it between scraps of useful information. The false oracle becomes more objectionable when uttered by the side of oracles which are not false.—But, enough of this discreditable subject. We turn to worthier matter.

The *British Almanac and Companion* is too well established in public favour to need our praise. Besides the carefully prepared tables usually making the chief substance of an almanac, the *British* this year contains elaborate articles on "Ancient and Modern Usages in Reckoning," "British and Irish Fisheries," "Public Libraries," "The Railways of the United Kingdom," "The Coal Trade of London," "The Water Question," "Cholera," "Fluctuations in the Funds,"—and shorter papers of use and interest. From the article on Public Libraries, evidently written before the corrections of the *Athenæum* appeared, we extract a fact and a suggestion worth notice, should Parliament pursue this inquiry any further. "Employers in America and in many towns in the North of England," says the writer of the article in question—*apropos* of what individuals may do in the way of fostering the habit of reading in the lower classes—

"Have begun, at their own cost, to erect libraries in their mills and workshops for the free use of their hands. They find their own profit and moral advantage in it—in the improved and improving character of their work-people. Others have adopted the plan of appropriating all fines levied on the workers for inattention, late hours, or bad work, to the purchase of books for their daily use. There is a double advantage in this course. Formerly these fines went weak by week into the pocket of the master, and the men who had a fraction of his scanty earnings thus arrested would seldom admit that the fine was justly inflicted—he would seldom fail to attribute it to his employer's wish to rob him of his hard-earned cash, and to load with new those who grind the faces of the poor. Under the new

system, he sees that his superior has no personal interest in inflicting such fines—that, in fact, they are inflicted only as a means of discipline; and out of his very faults good is made to come both to himself and to others of his class. It would have been wise and useful for the Committee to have examined one of the managers of these mill-laboratories, of which there are several in Manchester and the neighbouring towns. Many curious and interesting facts would thus have come to light. We have ourselves seen some of these provincial mill-laboratories:—and can speak of their usefulness, and of the favour with which the workpeople generally regard them.

To take up the other almanacs with which our table is covered somewhat at random:—we open *The Ladies' Almanack*, which, in addition to the usual table of contents, has other matters supposed to be interesting to the sex. There are woodcuts of flowers for the different months,—hints on etiquette,—on the management of birds in cages,—crochet work and Berlin-wool wasting.—Then comes *The Reformer's Almanack and Year Book*; full of hard, dry, and tangible facts. It is the British empire in little. To give an adequate idea of its varied contents, this almanack should have a long article to itself. We may say, in brief, that it seems to be the *opus ultra* of a political year-book for the liberal class of thinkers and voters. One feature in it strikes us as new. With the unfulfilled programme of the year to come, we have a daily history of the year that is past. For example, at the page now open we have—"August 1, 1850, Lammass-day—1849, Independence of Hungary declared.—2nd, Gainsborough died, 1788.—1849, Case of Gorbam v. Exeter in the Archers' Court.—3rd, Arkwright died, 1792.—1849, opening of the Nineveh Gallery in the British Museum." A daily record like this, carefully made out, is likely to be useful for reference, and is suggestive for present reading.

*White's Celestial Atlas* is a work, appealing to another class of readers, equally excellent in its own way. It contains the geocentric places of all the planets for the ensuing year,—the eclipses, occultation and other celestial phenomena. Here the oracles of science speak their own language—as they have been wont to speak it for more than a century; this periodical having entered, with the expiring year, into the second century of its existence.—*The Stationers' Company* sell it over their counter with Zadkiel and Moore!—*The Artists' Almanack and Hand-Book for Artists and Amateurs* for 1850 is, we believe, a new venture. It puts forth its class appeal backed by adequate merits. The columns of remarkable occurrences being fed in this case from the annals of art and literature, make of themselves agreeable Christmas reading. We may notice that we found our own anecdotes and gossip scattered plentifully over its pages; but, however, an acknowledgment—though a meagre one—of the obligation.—*The Almanack of the Fine Arts for the Year 1850* appears to be another new venture in the Art-world. There is, certainly, plenty of paper and letter-press for the money.

The titles of *The Gardeners' Almanack* and *Moore's Almanack Improved*, or *The Farmer's and Countryman's Calendar* tell their own tales.—*The Englishman's Family Almanack* possesses no peculiar feature, except its high price.—*Powsey's Ladies' Fashionable Repository* is one of those old-fashioned little books, in good brown morocco binding, which thirty years ago or more were as plentiful as blackberries. How it lives, seems at first a mystery:—for few carry such pocket-books with them now-a-days. But on reckoning up the number of Ninas, Aminas, Conrads and Coralies who figure as authors and authoresses of prose and verse in its pages, it will be seen that if every contributor buys a copy there must be a tolerable circulation, without reckoning the stray purchasers in the world outside. The contributions are for the most part in verse—and that of the sentimental sort. Some of these are curious enough. Take as an example of the Pocket humour the derivation of "Beauties":—

As the loveliest lasses have ever found out  
No beau can resist them who tries,—  
Irresistible proof might be given, no doubt,  
That "Beauties" mean simply *beast-ties*.

Of *Goldsmith's Almanack*, made to fit in a pocket-book,—*Willis's Complete Clerical Almanack*,—and *Gilbert's Clergyman's Almanack*, we need do no more than chronicle the re-appearance in their usual costumes and with their usual tables of contents.—*The*

*Lady's and Gentleman's Diary* continues, in its 147th annual number, to supply the customary quantity of poetical and mathematical puzzles, perplexities, conundrums, and controversies. There is a curious paper 'On Radical Axes and Poles of Similitude,'—very short, but enjoying the peculiar advantage, seeing that Christmas and diaries come but once a year, of being continued from last year and to be continued in the next.—*Letts's Indispensable Almanac* and *Letts's Diary* both deserve the welcome at our hands which works of every-day use and convenience may claim.—*The Royal Naval and Military Almanac* is a new venture of Messrs. Ackermann's, the same size as *The Artist's Almanack*. Its contents are, of course, chiefly interesting to the members of the two professions to which it is addressed.—We notice no change of feature in *Diétrichsen and Hannay's Royal Almanac*.—*The Shakespeare Almanac* proceeds upon an idea which is better than its working out. With the aid of Mrs. Cowden Clarke it is no difficult—nor desirable—task to find out passages barely applicable to the events of life; but unless the illustrations be such, shrewd or witty, they have no meaning. Few of the passages here quoted are apposite—except verbally: which is nearly the same thing as not being apposite at all. It is not as mere idle echoes of events, in our own or past times, that the oracles of Stratford should be awakened; and he who has not the "faculty divine" to make higher use of their meanings can boast of no commission to expound them to the public.—We should notice, that to this almanac are prefixed an inflated preface and an essay to match.

*The Stationers' Almanac* is a sheet containing the usual tables for daily reference, and headed by a view of the Zoological Gardens in the Regent's Park. *The London Almanac* is on board;—and has a representation of the Fishmongers' and Poulterers' Institution, at Wood Green, Tottenham. *The United Kingdom Life Assurance Company* have issued this year, as last, an *Almanack* of their own, with heading and borders in colours and gold.

*The Physician's, Surgeon's and General Practitioner's Visiting List for 1850* is an ingenious publication for the personal and every-day use of the medical practitioner. As we have often asked ourselves by what mental arrangement "the doctor" contrives to recollect and prescribe for the numerous symptoms which in the course of a long day's drive are poured into his ear and,—to be of all our ministers at once the most busy and the most punctual,—we can readily appreciate the value of the manual before us as an assistant to him in the routine of his professional labours. This medical visiting list, as it is modestly called, is in truth a repertory of medical information for every-day reference. Here are tables to show at a glance the proper treatment of the various kinds of poisoning, hanging, drowning, &c.—the digestibility of certain articles of diet,—the composition and use of the bath,—the mineral waters and natural baths in the British Islands and the Continent, classified according to their nature and supposed utility in the treatment of disease.—the medical topography of Great Britain—the localities adapted by situation and climate for invalids, with the season when they should be visited.—the Medical Societies—the General Hospitals, &c.—fees legally claimable by the profession—the insurance offices recognizing the principle of remuneration,—and other intelligence specially interesting to those of the profession in active practice.

There are one or two matters on our table which, though not properly almanacs, may yet be included under this head of publication. Messrs. Letts & Co. have issued a *Table for Finding the Day of the Week or Month at Sight*; which is effected by one printed card moving on another, so as to be set, according to simple directions, for any year till 1900.—They have published also a *Perpetual Historical Calendar*, for finding, by means of a sliding slip, the day of the week or month of any year, past, present, or future, and according to either the old style or the new:—with a table for finding the Dominical letter for any year of any century from the commencement of the Christian era downwards.—They furnish likewise a card of the *Proper [Church] Lessons for Sundays and for Holidays*.—To these things we may add a notice of *Thomas's Universal Newspaper and Periodical List*: which contains an account of

all the periodicals issued in the United Kingdom,—their names, prices, and places and days of publication, their political bias, &c.; also of the chief periodicals of France, America, Germany, the English and French colonies, &c. Altogether, this is a very useful book of reference for all who have to do with the "fourth estate."—*Webster's Royal Red Book for 1850* has been carefully revised and corrected up to the latest possible period. It is an indispensable guide-book for the metropolis.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

THE following are some of the New Editions and Translations which have recently been published.—A second edition of the Duke of Argyll's *Presbytery Examined* has appeared; and the fourth volume of Dr. Miller's *History Philosophically Illustrated*. This volume completes the third edition, revised by the author.—Mr. Smith's translations of Fichte's popular works are now collected in two volumes. The memoir of the philosopher is prefixed, but in an enlarged form. The works included in this collection consist of the lectures 'On the Vocation of the Scholar,' 'On the Nature of the Scholar,' 'On the Vocation of Man,' 'On the Characteristics of the Present Age,' 'The Doctrine of Religion,' and the 'Outlines of the Doctrine of Knowledge.'—Sir E. B. Lytton's *Eugene Aram* has been reprinted in one volume, with a Frontispiece by Mr. H. K. Browne. The fragment of the author's drama on the same subject is added to the romance. Vol. 2 of Mr. Davis's *New and Literal Version of the Works of Plato*, containing 'The Republic,' 'Timæus' and 'Critias,' has been received. These three dialogues are intimately connected, and present the philosopher's more matured and fully developed views. The translation, as we have before stated, is founded on the text of Stallbaum. It is further illustrated with notes that explain, as far as possible, whatever is doubtful. A General Introduction is prefixed, giving a view of the Platonic System—which will prepare the reader for the study of the philosophy itself in the dialogue form, and for better understanding of the same in detail. The first eight books of Livy's 'History of Rome,' literally translated, with notes and illustrations, by Dr. Spillan, has appeared. The translator undertakes to be more faithful to his original than Baker was;—whose work he pronounces to have been so able as to have precluded the need for a new version but for his want of exact fidelity. Dr. Spillan's version has been rendered from the edition published at Oxford under the superintendence of Travers Twiss.—We have also to announce the completion of Mr. Dale's translation of Thucydides, from the text of Arnold, collated with Bekker, Gölter, and Poppo, in 2 volumes. An Index is appended: a convenience which should never be absent from works of this character.—A new and revised edition of Urquhart and Motteux's *Rabelais*, in 2 vols., with explanatory notes by Duchat, Ozell, and others, has just appeared.—The ninth edition of Bloxam's *Principles of Gothic Ecclesiastical Architecture*,—the second of Gibbon's *Law of Dilapidations and Nuisances*,—the third of Clavey's *Introduction to Modern Geography*,—and the second of Account of an Expedition to the Interior of New Holland, have been received.—To Mr. McCulloch's *Geographical Dictionary*, published in 1846, a Supplement has appeared, containing several additional articles producing their subjects to the present date. Among these, are papers on France, on Australia, on Greece, on Prussia, on New Zealand, and on the newly constituted state of Liberia.—A fifth edition of Dr. Robertson's *Guide to the Use of the Buxton Waters* has been received.—*The Memoirs of Francis Horner*, with Selections from his Correspondence, by his brother, Leonard Horner, have been added to 'Chambers's Instructive and Entertaining Library.'—A second and enlarged edition of *Man's Power over Himself to Prevent or Control Insanity* forms one of Mr. Barlow's "Small Books on Great Subjects." It is the substance of a communication made to the members of the Royal Institution, at one of their Friday evening meetings.—There have been reprints of Longfellow's *Evangeline*, F. Bremer's *Home*, Lamartine's *Raphael*, and the *Life of Jean Paul F. Richter*.—also an eighth edition of Dr. Mantell's *Thoughts on a Pebble*.—Mr. Gleig's *Life of Sir Thomas Munro* is reprinted in No.



LXX. and LXXI. of Murray's 'Home and Colonial Library.'—Smith's *Fruits and Farinacea* and Carr's *History of Greece* have arrived each at new editions.—and Nond's *Lectures on Electricity* at a third.—We acknowledge, also, a third edition of Horne's *Gregory VII.*; accompanied, besides the 'Essay on 'Tragic Influence,' with a preface in which the poet makes his acknowledgments to Mr. Leigh Hunt and Mr. John Forster for having aided him in its revision.—Mosheim's *Institutes of Ecclesiastical History, Ancient and Modern*, translated by Dr. Murdock, has received much revision by Dr. Reid, who has added 'Supplementary Notes.'

Of the following works the titles only can be given.—*The Prose Works of Henry Ware*, Jun. D.D. Edited by the Rev. Chandler Robbins.—*Essays in Ecclesiastical Biography*. By the Right Hon. Sir J. Stephen, 2 vols.—*Æsthetic Papers*. Edited by E. P. Peabody.—*General Description of the Britannia and Conway Tubular Bridges on the Chester and Holyhead Railway*. Published, with the permission of Robert Stephenson, by a Resident Assistant.—*Religion and its Establishments in Ireland: a Chapter from Ireland, Historical and Statistical*. By George Lewis Smyth.—*The Anglo-Saxon Version of the Hexameron of St. Basil; or, Be Godes Six Daga Weorom; and the Anglo-Saxon Remains of St. Basil's Admonitio ad Filium Spiritualem*, now first printed from MSS. in the Bodleian Library, with a translation, notes, and an account of the presumed author, Ælfric. By the Rev. Henry W. Norman. A second edition, greatly enlarged.—*The Harmony of the Apocalypse with other Prophecies of Holy Scripture*. By the Rev. W. Henry Hoare.—*A History of Congress*. By Henry G. Wheeler. Illustrated by steel portraits and fac-simile autographs. 3 vols.—*The Railways of the United Kingdom Statistically Considered*. By Harry Scrivenor.—*The Sabbath; or, an Examination of the Six Texts commonly adduced from the New Testament in proof of a Christian Sabbath*. By a Layman.—*The New Philosophy*, in 3 parts.—*The Stud, for Practical Purposes and Practical Men*. By Harry Hieover.—*Curtii Rufi de Gestis Alexandri Magni, Regis Macedonum, libri qui supersunt VIII.*; being Part II. of Chambers's Educational Course.—*Scottish Nationality; or, the Struggles of Scottish Episcopacy*. By Hugh Scott, Esq., of Gala.—*The Singular Introduction of the English Bible into Britain, and its Consequences—Some Account of the Life, Writings, and Character of the late J. Cowles Prichard, M.D.* By John Addington Symonds, M.D.—*A Brief Sketch of the Republic of Costa Rica*. By F.M.—*An Introduction to the New Testament, containing an Examination of the most important Questions relating to the Authority, Interpretation, and Integrity of the Canonical Books with reference to the latest Inquiries*. By S. Davidson, L.L.D. Vol. I. *The Four Gospels—Telemachus Verified*. By the Author of 'The Pilgrim's Progress Verified,' &c.—*The Bible of every Land; or, a History, Critical and Philological, of all the Versions of the Sacred Scriptures, in every Language and Dialect into which Translations have been made; with specimen portions in their own characters and Ethnographical Map*. Parts I. to IV.—*The Manufacture of Sugar in the Colonies and at Home Chemically Considered*. By John Scofield.—*The History of France related to Youth, from the French of M. Lamé Fleury*. By C. Fleming, of the Lycée Bonaparte. Vol. I.—*The Rational English Expositor and Guide to Pronunciation*. By W. Birkin.—*What shall I do with my Money? or, Thoughts about Safe Investments*. By T. S. Harvey.

## LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

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## PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

5, Cunningham Place, St. John's Wood,  
 Dec. 26.

As I may infer that the letters signed "Verificator," commenting on portions of the 'Report of the Select Committee of Public Libraries' published in August last—and more especially on the 'Approximative Statistical View of the principal Public Libraries of Europe and the United States of America'—which I had the honour to lay before that Committee—are now concluded, I beg your permission to state to the readers of the *Athenæum* that I am preparing a new edition of the 'Approximative View,' in which a categorical answer will be given to all those charges and objections that are without real foundation, and in which I shall gratefully adopt and acknowledge all those corrections and emendations which appear to me valid and accurate. The first copy of this new edition shall be addressed to yourself immediately on its completion.

Several reasons induced me to prefer this method of fully replying to your correspondent or correspondents:—and principally these two—

First, because I think such a republication, at this time, will be likely in some measure to promote that improvement in our national position as to Public Libraries, a desire for which first induced me to draw up the paper now in question, and in other ways to seek to arouse public attention to the subject. These efforts I shall continue to the best of my humble ability, as opportunity may offer,—without being discouraged either by my own occasional mistakes or by the pertinacious misrepresentations of opponents, whether avowed or anonymous.

Secondly, because I can scarcely hope that the answer which I am prepared to make to the attacks of "Verificator" can be restricted within such limits as you would be likely to accord to me in the columns of the *Athenæum*. I deem it indispensable to my justification to notice in some detail many points which your correspondent has noticed either very cursorily or not at all. For it is obvious that the credit due to a statistical paper containing the statement of many thousand distinct facts, and crowded with figures, must depend, not on the total absence of error, but on the proportion borne by the errors which a minute and scrutinizing "verification" may detect, to the whole amount of facts stated,—on the relative importance of such errors in respect to the main scope and object of the work in which they occur,—and on the degree in which they may appear to be fairly ascribable on the one hand to the ignorance or negligence of the author, on the other to the difficulties inseparable from his task.

I confidently trust that I shall be able to convince those who take an interest in the matter, that your correspondent has quite misapprehended some of my statements, and has grossly distorted and misrepresented others:—that he has contradicted allegations which are supported by conclusive testimony, and has made assertions which are devoid both of proof and of probability.

For my own part, I shall, undoubtedly, have to correct, and to regret, many mistakes and oversights, some of them resulting from haste or negligence, others from the unavoidable imperfection of my materials. I must acknowledge my error in omitting the (three) Cathedral Libraries of Canterbury, York and Norwich from the second of my tables;—although I might plead in excuse that the table in question was in print long before I had succeeded in obtaining any reliable information with respect to those ecclesiastical collections. I shall have to restore Alcabala to Portugal, and Mentz to its right Hesse; to transform "Vich" into "Vicq," and the dates "1836-37" into "1835-36";—in short, to make many other corrections of similar calibre. But I shall not have to add to my enumeration of the public libraries of London a long list of libraries to which the public have never been admitted; nor to deny the free and unrestricted accessibility of the principal libraries of Germany, the official regulations of which secure such unrestricted access by express enactment. Nor need I take the pains to compute what proportion the aggregate number of volumes in the libraries of the Oxford University may bear to the aggregate number of inhabitants of Oxford city,—to whom the books would be of as much utility if they were preserved in the University of Serampore; nor give myself the trouble of bolstering up fictitious comparisons of numbers, by reckoning tracts of a single sheet as so many volumes if they be contained in a British library, and reckoning ten or twelve such to a volume if they happen to be in a foreign one; nor that of including duplicates in the estimate of a library at London, excluding them from that of a library at Munich,—and then proceeding to place the results side by side, as if they were comparative. Such emendations would be little likely to improve the 'Approximative View,' or to add to our statistical information.

The judgment of the Committee with respect to Catalogues would have been little enlightened by my answering to the question: Are you aware of any one of the first-class libraries on the Continent which possesses a printed Catalogue?—"I know there is not one," in a letter which itself enumerates several such catalogues with their titles and dates of publication.

Nor would the conclusions of the Committee on the subject of "International Exchanges" have been much assisted by my venturing to contradict the precise and positive testimony of Mr. Henry Stevens, (*Evidence*, 1607-1609), speaking of his own personal knowledge, to the extent and value of the literary interchanges which have been already effected between France and the United States of America, through the instrumentality of M. Alexandre Vattemare; whose services in this respect have gained for him several public votes of thanks from American Legislatures,—but whom your correspondent, with a charming grace and an aristocratic dignity peculiarly his own (and of which so many specimens adorn these letters) is pleased to term "M. Alexandre, the ventriloquist."

I am not, however, unwilling to infer from the marked interest displayed by "Verificator" in the promotion of the public objects for which the Committee of the House of Commons was appointed, that it may have been intensely painful to him to have had to bestow so much time and labour on trivial matters and incidental personalities having so remote a bearing on those public objects and aims. I am willing to admit that he may have been impelled into this course by an eager and undiscriminating desire for truth—or what seemed to him truth—even in her meanest aspect. I can but regret that so ardent a passion should have met with so inadequate a return. For myself, I am well aware that, after using my best exertions to improve the paper which has occasioned this controversy, I shall still be compelled to reiterate in the new edition the fear thus expressed in my prefatory notice to the former editions:—"I cannot hope that . . . I have not fallen into the commission of many errors. Those, however, who are best acquainted with the difficulties which beset inquiries of this nature will regard those errors with some indulgence; and for any information tending to their correction, I shall, at all times, be very thankful." I have, &c.

EDWARD EDWARDS.



## OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP

We alluded some time since to the healthy condition of the London publishing trade, and of the state of the book-market throughout the three kingdoms. What we observed then has been more than confirmed by the result of Mr. Murray's great annual trade sale, at the Albion Tavern, in Aldersgate Street, during the present month. Few of our readers are perhaps aware that it is the custom of the two great London houses, Murray's and Longmans', to put their books up to a kind of auction every year; that the sale is prefaced by a dinner, at which all the booksellers of "credit" in London are invited to be present,—and that as soon as the cloth is removed, Mr. Hodgson, the auctioneer of Fleet Street, commences the business of the day by offering the books *à la carte* as in the printed catalogue to the attention of the guests. The practice is, not, as at other auctions, to knock the lot down to the highest bidder; but to put the book up at a certain price below what is usually called "subscription-price,"—or, in other words, below the figure at which the book can be obtained on any other occasion. It is also the custom to put up books not ready for delivery, but only nearly so; and it is curious to watch the interest that is felt throughout the room when a book of name is offered for the first time. It is a matter of ancient and proper deference to the great houses to let "the Row" begin. Thus, with a popular work, Longman will start with 350.—Simpkin with the same number.—Whittaker with 250.—Hamilton and Adams with the same number; till at last it comes to "twenty-fives" and "fives," and at times to only "one." Not less interesting is it to behold the eager way in which the numbers called out are placed promptly on paper by the several booksellers,—or the quick tradesman-like manner in which they cast up the several totals, and look with mute astonishment one at another at the greatness of the demand. Sales of this description are limited to the two houses we have mentioned,—and are always looked forward to with interest as affording an index of the approaching season. Mr. Murray's last sale was the best he has had since his father's death; he disposing of books on that day to the amount of 19,000*l*. Nor will this be wondered at when the numbers sold are put together. For instance, the trade took on that occasion 2,000 of Lord Campbell's 'Chief Justices,'—5,000 volumes of 'The Colonial Library,'—1,400 of Layard's 'Nineveh,'—1,400 of Byron's Works in one volume,—1,300 copies of Mr. Borrow's new work 'L'Avenço,'—900 of the new edition of Mr. Cunningham's 'Hand-Book for London,'—750 of Mr. Grote's 'Greece,'—750 of Mr. Curzon's 'Levant,' and 600 of M. Guizot's new work. School books sold in still greater proportions,—5,000 Markham's 'Histories,'—4,000 'Little Arthur's History of England,'—2,000 Wordsworth's Latin Grammar,—1,200 'Somerville's Geography,'—and even Mrs. Rundell, though thought to be antiquated, maintained her reputation with her new dishes and in her new dress.—Authors benefit as well as booksellers by a sale like this.

The interest felt in the missing Arctic voyagers would seem to be rather on the increase than otherwise since the return of Sir James Ross,—as is testified by the various rumours which point at schemes in project for his release. The Behring's Straits Expedition is, we know, so far advanced towards readiness, that it will be in a condition to sail in the first week of the new year. We have every reason to believe, too, that an Expedition will be sent to Barrow's Strait: in which direction we must, after all, hope to glean some tidings of our lost countrymen. The *United Service Gazette* alludes to the Expedition said to be fitting out by private enterprise, and intended to be commanded by a distinguished Arctic officer, the rumour of which we mentioned to our readers some weeks ago. The *Gazette* names the officer, too—Sir John Ross: which we declined doing, because we thought our information not sufficiently authentic, and felt that there were improbabilities on the face of the statement.—The Hudson's Bay Company have liberally offered to keep Mr. Rae out during the ensuing summer if his services can be of any use. There are rumours, too, of Expeditions getting up in the United States to assist in the search; and Capt. Lynch, it is stated, has proposed to fit out a steamer by private subscriptions, if Government will sanction

it.—We may mention in connexion with this subject that the First Lord of the Admiralty has awarded a vacant captain's good service pension of 150*l*. per annum to Sir James Ross.

The daily papers announce the death, at Malvern, on Monday last, of Patrick Fraser Tytler, author of 'The History of Scotland'—the 'Lives of Scottish Worthies'—and 'The Life of Sir Walter Raleigh'—and editor of two volumes of 'Letters,' derived from the originals in the State Paper Office, illustrative of the History of England under Edward the Sixth and Mary. Mr. Tytler was the grandson of William Tytler.

Revered defender of the beauteous Stuart,—and the grandson of Tytler Lord Woodhouselee, author of a brief and useful Universal History. He had been long ailing—both mentally and bodily; and for the last six or seven years had been unable, we believe, to pursue his favourite studies. His 'History of Scotland' introduced him to the notice of Sir Robert Peel when Minister,—from whom he obtained a Government pension of 200*l*. a year. He was a severe and accurate historical student; and his loss to letters (to be dated unfortunately long anterior to his death) occasioned much disappointment amongst his friends and to the public. His pension, it had been thought, would have enabled him to pursue still more closely the study of British History,—and have perhaps induced him to write a portion of English History which he is known to have contemplated and for which he had made collections. His 'History of Scotland,' commencing with Alexander the Third and ending with the accession of James the Sixth to the throne of England, is a work of great importance:—the best book that we possess on that subject. The writer dug, like the late Sir Harris Nicolas, for new materials,—and with equal success; while he had a much nicer art than Sir Harris in turning his materials to account. His style, though far from good, is never slipshod or long-winded. He tells what he has to say plainly,—perhaps baldly; but he carries his readers with him, and wins and retains their approbation to the end. His 'Life of Raleigh' is remarkable for the view which he starts and supports on the subject of Sir Robert Cecil's plots connected with Raleigh's ruin. It contains, moreover, some new materials of moment;—though it must still be said, that the life of Raleigh remains to be written. Mr. Tytler has left a widow to lament his loss.

We have pleasure in recording that Her Majesty the Queen and his Royal Highness Prince Albert have contributed 500*l*. towards the fund for promoting female emigration which is now raising under the auspices of the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert.

A paragraph in the *South African Commercial Advertiser* announces that the long contested geographical problem of the existence of a great inland sea or lake in Central Africa is at length solved. This lake, so often supposed to be referred to by the natives, and so often "discovered" according to newspaper dictum, is once more said to have been found. The fact, if true, is so interesting, that we shall not withhold the report from our readers;—but it comes to us in such a questionable shape, that we are bound to give it *only* as a report. The information purports to come in a letter written from the lake by a Mr. L. (name not given!)—who calls it Noka ca Nama or Nguma. He describes it as a beautiful inland sea of unknown breadth or length, as land cannot be seen across it—the waters blue. The country round it is said to be desert. Two large rivers run into the lake from the north, the waters of which seem to be composed of melted snow,—they are so soft and clear. The discoverers say they travelled along the banks of one of these streams—in some parts like the Clyde—for 200 miles in a S.E. direction,—when they came upon the lake. The only indications given of the position are—that it is about 550 miles N.W. of Kolo-beng; and that the last solar observation taken (whether this was taken near the lake is not stated) gave about 16° 7'. All this is so vague, that no reliance can be placed on it until fresh information shall enable us better to understand the data on which this long pending geographical dispute is now claimed to have been set at rest.

The latest doings in California have a higher relish than is usually conveyed by despatches from the "farthest hut." Yankees and Mexicans have

taken counsel together, elected a representative of their own, and proclaimed for themselves a constitution—everything considered; perhaps the most democratic in the world. They begin by setting forth the natural rights of man in general—on the model first introduced by William Penn, whose ideas they for the most part adopt. They then lay down the bases of their own government in particular: in some respects setting an example to much older governments both in their own country and in Europe. It is quite edifying to see how these energetic adventurers settle a point which perplexes senates and confounds congresses in Washington—that of slavery. Their fundamental laws declare that no man can be a slave in California:—so that the question which threatened to overthrow cabinets on the Potomac—and even to endanger the Union of the Northern and Southern States—is quietly solved without a division on the Sacramento. Another law declares that no man who has fought a duel or carried a challenge can enjoy any political right—the suffrage, for example—or be employed in any office of dignity or profit in the State. Other articles are to match.—We may notice here that M. Arago, the blind traveller, who set out some months ago for the land of gold, has found "metal more attractive" at Valparaiso:—where he has pitched his tent, with a view, it is said, of writing a History of Chili.

The Belfast papers give full particulars of the formal inauguration of the Queen's College in that town, under circumstances of great promise and in presence of a very numerous audience.—"The clergy of our different religious denominations," says the *Northern Whig*, "the civic magistrates, and the several corporate bodies of our town, the official representatives here of foreign nations, and a numerous body of our most estimable fellow-citizens engaged in professional and mercantile avocations, together with a large number of the gentry from the surrounding counties and the immediate neighbourhood, came forward to stamp in the most emphatic manner their approval of a wise and beneficent system of education."

The scheme for establishing a regular line of steamers between England and her Australian colonies is at length favourably entertained by the Home Government. The route is to be by way of Panama, the Sandwich Islands (port of Tahiti), Cook's Straits, and New Zealand, to Sydney. There are, of course, not wanting persons who dispute the wisdom of adopting this route; and many of those who admit its superiority on the whole, object to the deflexion from the direct course involved in the idea of passing through Cook's Straits—at least a thousand miles farther than the nearest passage from Tahiti to Sydney. New Zealand, it is said, is as yet an unimproved settlement, with little or no export trade,—and therefore has no claim to take the post-steamer out of their way even for three days. This objection seems to us very unworthy of consideration. A great system of steam communication has other and nobler uses than the rapid transmission of letters:—though this is by no means an unimportant matter. It tends to break down the moral as well as the physical barriers to unity of sentiment and action created by distance—to bind, so far as is possible, the outlying provinces of the empire together in a common interest—to promote the habit of regular intercourse between them, not merely for the purpose of buying and selling, but for the higher interchanges of thought and feeling. At present no common sentiment actuates the colonies of England—excepting that which acts through the common centre in Downing Street. Canada has no sympathy with the Cape,—Jamaica no connexion with Australia. The system of leaving everything to take care of itself has produced its natural fruit. The Anglo-African cares nothing for the Anglo-Asiatic—the Anglo-Australian as little for the Anglo-American. Something of that mysterious feeling which attracts men of the same blood and race towards each other no doubt exists under all the outward symbols of estrangement; but nothing has ever been done by the rulers of England to cultivate it,—to give it an impulse and a profitable direction. Yet a forecasting statesman—one looking beyond to-morrow—would see how needful it is to the peaceful progress of the world that the habit of regarding each other with the cordial feelings produced by the sentiments

of a common origin and interest should be assiduously cultivated by every member of that grand confederacy of settlements which in the future will go to constitute the Anglo-Saxon commonwealth of nations. Now, whether the Ministers in Whitehall are actuated by any such idea as is here suggested, we know not;—but we are sure that the plan which they propose of a line of steamers to belt the globe will help to effect the end desired. The time occupied in the transmission of letters to Sydney will be reduced just one half:—no mean object gained. But the principal point will be a moral—shall we say also a political?—advantage. The settlers at the antipodes will feel themselves drawn nearer to England—find themselves in weekly communication with the whole chain of British colonies from Canada on one side to the Cape on the other. Under this higher view of the case—whatever may have been the inducing motive—we are glad that Government has not left so important a colony as New Zealand out of the route to be traversed.

For some months past we have never taken up a batch of American papers without expecting to receive a shock of moral electricity. A week or two ago, while chronicling the rise and progress of the Mormon sect, we asked ourselves if it were possible for anything to occur to cast those phenomena into the shade? Taught by experience of American marvel and eccentricity, we had a doubt—and now our reservations are justified: Mormon Prophet and Poughkeepsie Seer—Mexico and California are extinguished by the new marvel. Messrs. Smith and Davis were but children at their work:—they saw spirits for themselves alone. They did not profess to bring legions of angels into direct communication with legions of mortals. Now, every shop-boy sees his ghost, and learns the secrets of the present world from his invisible familiar.—The bare fact now announced is this:—New York has suddenly received a vast number of spiritual visitations. The manner in which the spirit pays its visit is as follows:—a low hollow rapping is heard,—the rapper being invisible. At first people were a little startled; but as nothing more alarming came of it they took courage, and began to question the spiritual messenger. They found it apt to answer. The first question put was naturally "Are you a spirit?"—to which the invisible replied—"Rap-rap-rap!" which is supposed to mean y-e-s! Its name was demanded. But the reply was not understood. One present suggested to the spirit that the letters of the alphabet should be called over, and the letters spelling the name signified by him. This process yielded as result—"Charles Rasmé." So far, the story is only a Cock-lane ghost affair;—but now comes the pith of the matter. Hundreds of houses in New York became subject to the calls of these Rappites: dialogues were conducted in each after the manner of the model,—that is, by question and raps. The spirit no longer confines his personality—if that term may be used of a spirit—to the name of Charles Rasmé. The visitants are numerous—nearly every family having its own. It is said to be observed that in all cases of experiment the presence of certain persons susceptible to mesmerism in some of its stages is necessary to success; these present, the usual mesmeric marvels are produced by appeal to the invisible spirit—the names of persons thought to be unknown are "correctly spelt," or those of distant friends.—These are as yet the only achievements of the higher powers. If, as some of our American brethren opine, this prove to be the discovery of a new race of spirits, it is well for mankind that they do not appear in a more formidable guise. So far as we are able to judge, man seems to be more than a match for them. One or two further items of information may be gleaned from the particulars which have come to hand. These spirits know the Roman alphabet, and speak—or at least understand—the English language. In America, persons who might be presumed unlikely to be either dupes or duped in such things exercise their ingenuity in efforts to explain the phenomena on rational grounds. We should imagine the first and great difficulty would be—to prove the facts. With all his "smartness," Brother Jonathan is given to strange hallucinations. One would scarcely expect to meet with the exorcized "spirits" of the elder world—spirits that have ceased to haunt the old castles of the Rhine and the villages

of the Black Forest—regenerated among the warehouses of a new brick-and-plaster city. But our cousins have a wonderful capacity for belief: and no doubt "Charles Rasmé" will have his followers for a month—as Andrew Jackson Davis of Poughkeepsie hid his. Then, the new spirit will give place to a newer.

THE WINTER EXHIBITION OF DRAWINGS IN WATER-COLOURS AND SKETCHES IN OILS, comprehending Works by the most eminent living Artists, is OPEN from Ten till Dusk daily. Admission (including Catalogue), 1s.; Season Ticket, 5s.—to be returned to purchasers.  
"The whole may be pronounced a cabinet collection of real gems of British Art."—Times, Dec. 21.  
130, Regent Street.

J. L. GRUNDY, Manager.

THE NILE.—RE-OPENED AT THE EGYPTIAN HALL, PICCADILLY.—The new and splendid MOVING PANORAMA of the NILE, showing all the stupendous Works of Antiquity on its Banks, from Cairo the capital of Egypt to the Second Cataract in Nubia. Painted by Henry Warren and James Fahey from drawings made by Joseph Bonomi during many years residence there. —Morning 3; Evening 5 o'clock.—Stalls 3s., Pitt St., Gallery 1s.

BANWARD'S OHIO AND MISSISSIPPI RIVERS, Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, showing Thousands of Miles of American Scenery, extending through the heart of America, exhibiting Cincinnati, the Queen City of the West, the beautiful Falls of the Ohio, and noble Scenery to the Mississippi, thence to the City of New Orleans.—Open every Morning at Half-past Two, Evening at Half-past Seven.—Admission, Lower Seats, 2s., Gallery, 1s.  
"Mr. Banward is the first projector of the enormous paintings of this class."

Christmas Holidays.

#### ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.

The First of a Series of ILLUSTRATED LECTURES, by Dr. Buchner, on the CHEMISTRY OF LIFE, and on the RE-CREATION, Daily at Two o'clock, and in the Evening at Eight.—AN ENTIRELY NEW SET OF DISSOLVING VIEWS OF LONDON IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY AND AS IT NOW IS, with a Descriptive Lecture, Daily at Half-past Four, and in the Evening at a Quarter to Ten.—THE VIEWS OF ROME, including New Views of the Interior and Exterior of ST. PETER'S, with DIORAMA EFFECTS, and a Descriptive Lecture, Daily at Half-past Four, and in the Evening at a Quarter to Ten.—LECTURES ON CHEMISTRY, with brilliant Experiments, by Mr. Ashley.—Experiments with the DIVER and DIVING BELL.—NEW EXHIBITION OF CHEMICAL APPARATUS, THE MACHINERY, MODELS, &c. EXPLAINED.—Admission, 1s.; Schools, half-price.

#### SOCIETIES

ASIATIC.—Dec. 15.—Prof. H. H. Wilson in the chair.—Dr. Gutzlaff made some observations relative to the empire of Japan. He said he had sought eagerly for every opportunity of conversing with the people, and learning their language; in which he had succeeded so far as to be able to converse with fluency. He said the Japanese were an inquiring people; they had studied the sciences of Europe, and had taken advantage of the presence of the Dutch merchants at Nagasaki to study their language, in which they had printed grammars and dictionaries. They had also added the English tongue to their stock; and the way in which they had become acquainted with English was curious. A certain Macdonald, a native of Canada, had long conceived a project of entering Japan. Being a poor man, he had no other means of effecting his purpose than to learn navigation by entering the navy as a seaman, and to save a sufficiency of money to purchase a boat, in which he succeeded in reaching Matsmai. He was at first well treated; but subsequently he was, by order of the Government, shut up in a cage, and compelled to teach the English language to some persons appointed to learn it. As a proof of the practical way in which they proceeded, he mentioned the fact that the American ship which afterwards went to Japan, and sailed up to the vicinity of the capital, found interpreters there who had learned English of Macdonald. They had plenty of English and Dutch books; they had inquired of Macdonald about the vessels in the Indian Seas, of which they had copious registers; they knew the occurrences of Europe and America; talked of the Mexican war; of the Sikhs; and of Indian affairs generally. Dr. Gutzlaff observed, that the people of Japan were in almost all cases favourable to strangers; and it was only by the severity of a jealous Government that they were prevented from showing this. He instanced the case of Macdonald, who was well treated until the Government interfered. He noticed the case of Commodore Biddle, who sailed up to Jeddo,—and when there, was invited on board a native junk; when he was struck with much violence by a sailor,—whose insolence, in all probability, was induced, as it was certainly protected, by the Government. The insolence, in this instance, was, from motives of policy, allowed to pass unquestioned. He also mentioned the case of the crew of an American vessel wrecked on the coast, many of whom were literally starved to death

by order of the Government. The case of these men is known to the Government of the United States—and is expected to be published in detail. On this occasion the seamen menaced the Japanese with the vengeance of the Government of the United States; but the reply was, we treated Commodore Biddle just as we liked, and your Government took no notice of it,—how then should they care for common sailors? It is believed, however, that the United States Government is preparing to take some energetic measures for protecting such of their seamen as may be wrecked hereafter on the Japanese coasts. The Doctor alluded to the fact of coal having been found in one of the islands forming a part of the Japanese territory,—which would be of essential advantage in steam navigation; and mentioned the curious circumstances of the arrival of a lost Japanese junk at Oregon after a passage of thirteen months, during which most of the crew died. Dr. Gutzlaff then spoke of Corea, with which he had much less acquaintance than with Japan. He said that the Government there had a great dread of communicating with foreigners; and that the king had fitted out a fleet for the purpose of keeping them away. It was a wretched assemblage of miserable boats, and served only to show the extent of his fears and of his weakness. There were many Christians in Corea; and they had sought for and found a French priest at Shanghai, who had proceeded to Corea, and was now there. It was expected that France would have the advantage of any intercourse with the country that might be effected in this way. The Corean language, like the Japanese, was written by the help of a syllabary; but the people, in conversation, mixed up their language with Chinese much more than the Japanese were in the habit of doing in their ordinary intercourse with each other.

SCIENTIFIC GOSSIP.—M. Ch. Brame has communicated to the Philomathic Society of Paris some interesting researches 'On the Sensible Molecular Movements of Bodies apparently Solid.' His first communication relates to the various conditions of sulphur. It is shown to be most prominent in what he calls the "Etat utriculaire." These utricles are formed in dividing rapidly, with the finger, a drop of liquid sulphur upon a plate of glass. The most interesting portion of M. Brame's second memoir is that which describes the action of the vapour of mercury upon this utricular sulphur. It is proved to be much more sensitive to the vapours of mercury than gold leaf:—which substance was employed by Dr. Faraday in his experiments to determine the temperature at which mercury did not volatilize. M. Brame has determined by the utricular sulphur that mercury is volatile some degrees below the point supposed by Faraday to mark its permanent fixation,—and he has also proved that amalgams of mercury and the mercurial ointment are equally volatile.

At the meeting of the Bombay Geographical Society held on the 10th of October, Dr. Giraud gave a notice of some experiments to determine the variations of saltiness in waters taken at intervals from the Gulf of Suez to Bombay by the chief engineer of the Ajdaha. It appears, there are 40 grains of salt in 1,000 grains of water in the Gulf of Suez,—and upwards of 39 grains in all the specimens down to Bombay. The water of the Atlantic, off the Canaries, was found to contain 44 grains in every 1,000. Dr. Buiat has constructed a simple apparatus for ascertaining the temperature of the ocean at all depths,—which also may be used for bringing up water. This has been employed in the selection of the specimens of water examined.—The zeal with which the members of this Society prosecute their inquiries deserves every commendation. The meetings are fully reported in the *Bombay Times*: to which journal we are indebted for much important information on the progress of science in the East.

#### MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MON. Institute of Actuaries, 7.  
TUES. Antiquaries, 8.  
— Zoological, 2.—General Business.  
— Royal Academy, 8.—Architecture.  
FRI. Archaeological Institute, 4.  
SAT. Asiatic, 2.



## FINE ARTS

*Ancient Coins and Medals.—An Historical Sketch of the Origin and Progress of Coining Money in Greece and the Colonies; its Progress with the Extension of the Roman Empire; and its Decline with the Fall of that Power.* By Henry Noel Humphreys. Illustrated by numerous Fac-simile Examples in Actual Relief and in the Metals of the respective Coins. Grant & Co.

It is now 240 years and more since Speed in his Chronicle attempted to show his countrymen the importance of the study of coins and medals in conjunction with the study of history. His engravings, though, according to the then universal practice, executed with but little regard to that scrupulous accuracy required in delineations of such monuments, are, on the whole, for the time, very creditable performances. The portraits of the Emperors are, to say the least, recognizable, and the various devices are treated with tolerable fidelity. Still, every coin is drawn within a circle of one uniform size,—and of the weight, form and module the student is left in utter ignorance. Whatever were the defects, however, of the woodcuts which abound in Speed's book, there cannot be a doubt of its having fostered and encouraged the study of Numismatics in England. In 1692, Obadiah Walker published his 'Greek and Roman History illustrated by Coins and Medals':—a work which could not have advanced the study greatly. Some years afterwards, Evelyn published his 'Numismata; or, a Discourse of Medals, Ancient and Modern':—a very impotent performance, and unworthy the pen of a man of taste. In 1720, Haym's 'Tesoro Britannico' appeared, illustrated by engravings of inferior execution but of tolerable accuracy. Pinkerton, in the preface to his 'Essay on Medals,' assails Haym with a torrent of virulent acrimony,—calls him a rash *forsennato* and "a madman, whose lucubrations afford only laughter and utter disgust,"—and falls foul of Khell, a German numismatist, for publishing a Latin translation of the work. The surprising insolence of this assailant is the more conspicuous when it is known that Haym was really practically acquainted with his subject, and had access to the Devonshire cabinet—the same which a few months ago was scattered by the hammer of the auctioneer,—while Pinkerton owed the little knowledge which he possessed to the information of others, the collectors of his day. Nevertheless, 'Essay on Medals' is still regarded by numismatists as an entertaining though obsolete work.

In 1782, appeared the well-known work 'Nummorum Veterum Populorum et Urbium,' in which the Autonomous Greek coins in the cabinet of Dr. Hunter are engraved in sixty-eight plates, and the metal, weight and size are carefully noted. This may be said to be the first English work of the kind in which a proper classification has been attempted; but the mode of alphabetical instead of geographical arrangement has been strongly and justly objected to.

During the last fifteen years numismatic science has made great strides in England; and although there are but few who apply themselves closely to the study, several works have appeared on the subject and have found a ready sale. The electrotype has been put in requisition,—and casts have been multiplied of many of the finest coins in public and private collections. Very beautiful impressions have also been embossed on paper:—a mode which has many advantages. Of the latter description are the illustrations in Mr. Humphreys's book. They appear to great advantage when compared with many of the woodcuts, which are unskillfully drawn and ill engraved. The first plate, or rather board, contains thirteen examples of the earliest Lydian, Persian, Eginetan, and Macedonian coins executed in gold and silver. The second and third comprises some of the beautiful specimens of the currency of Sicily and Magna Græcia. The Regal series of Macedonia, Syria, &c. follows,—then the Roman, in the three metals.

Thus far we can speak in commendation of this work,—which will doubtless find a place on the drawing-room table. But although it may, and we trust will, attract some to the study of ancient coins,—a still most abundant field for inquiry and research,—it is in a literary point of view a very unsatisfactory performance, and ill calculated to assist those who

may be inclined to take to the study in earnest. It would be invidious to enumerate all the errors of a book not calculated for the learned,—nor would we do more than allude to them but for the justification of these remarks. No elementary work, especially no work on ancient coins, can be compiled solely from a number of other volumes;—a practical acquaintance with the subject can alone qualify any man for the task of teaching. Mr. Humphreys must forgive us if we express our doubts of the existence of "gold and silver money of the provinces" with "permissu Cæsaris" and "decreto decurionum," (p. 165);—and he must also pardon our doubting the fact of a coin of Constantius Chlorus struck in anticipation of a descent upon Britain in the days of Carausius (p. 177). He doubtless alludes to a medallion of Constantine, at least fifty years later; by which time another change had taken place in the style of Roman coinage,—a change which could not have been unnoticed by a practised numismatist.

## THE BUTLER PORTRAITS.

Various pressing engagements have hitherto prevented me from replying to the letter of "George Vertue, Jun." which appeared in No. 1149 of your journal, respecting the Portrait of Butler by Zoest, purchased from me by Sir Robert Peel. However, I trust to your impartiality to insert the following observations, although somewhat late in point of time.

The sources from which the so-called portrait of Butler by Sir Peter Lely was obtained, are these.—1st. There is a portrait of the Right Hon. Edward Lord Montague, Viscount Hinchinbrooke, of St. Neot's, and Earl of Sandwich, engraved by Blotting, after a picture painted by Sir Peter Lely.

2nd. A portrait of the Right Hon. Lord Grey, drapery and every part (except the head) copied from the before-mentioned print, and ascribed to Lely, although made up from the former picture.

These two prints may be seen in the Print Room at the British Museum. Now, for my proof that there exists no print of Butler after Sir Peter Lely. This same plate was afterwards altered; the head of Lord Grey was scraped out and Samuel Butler's inserted in its place; every other part of the plate being preserved. In this state it was published by Bowles, of St. Paul's Churchyard:—a man who committed more abominations as a publisher than any other person of his time. He, knowing that the composition was Lely's, and feeling that the public would buy the print, as Lely's works were popular, had no scruples in publishing it under his name:—so that the portraits of Lord Grey and Butler have their origin in the first-named one of the then Lord Montague,—and are not the works of Lely, though called so.

With regard to the Zoest portrait. I have seen an impression (also in the British Museum) of the plate engraved by Van Somer, to which you allude in your journal, No. 1146:—it is in a very scarce state. It was afterwards reduced about half-an-inch; the burr being scraped away to admit of the following lines:—

Butler, thou need'st no tomb nor epitaph,  
Thy name to all posterity is safe;  
What excellence can brass or marble claim,  
Thy papers better do secure thy fame,  
Thy verse all monuments do's far surpass  
No mausoleum's like thy Hudibras.

The painter's name, Zoest, is engraved on the plate. I will stake my reputation that it is from the picture belonging to Sir Robert Peel, and that there is no engraving of Butler after Lely: the error having arisen through the imposition of Bowles, which I now expose, or through the ignorance of persons calling the Zoest picture a Lely,—the latter being a better selling name. I bought my picture under the name of Lely, at Miss Rushout's sale; but my practical experience assures me that it is not in his manner,—as Vertue also, that great searcher after truth, knew, when about forty years after the death of Butler he selected the picture by Zoest for his engraving.

Since the controversy arose in your journal, I have been at Oxford, and most carefully inspected the Butler portrait in the Bodleian Gallery; and I find it to be a very poor copy after the picture I had the honour to sell to Sir Robert Peel. The pictures in that gallery are generally rightly named as to charac-

ter, although miserable as works of Art,—they being mostly bad copies. The most interesting is the portrait of Selden, by Mytens. Of course I do not allude to the modern pictures. The Bodleian portrait of Butler is *wrongly* attributed in the catalogue to Sir Peter Lely; and this circumstance, together with the imposition of Bowles, has produced all the confusion which exists relating to the subject of Butler's portraits.—I am, &c. HENRY FARRER.

15, Albert Road, Gloucester Gate, Regent's Park.

Dec. 27.

\* \* We do not understand our correspondent's letter,—which gives the history of the picture sold by him to Sir Robert Peel, and undertakes to affirm "that there is no engraving of Butler after Lely"—as meaning also to assert that Lely painted no picture of Butler. The portrait of the author of Hudibras sold at Whiteknights, and mentioned by our correspondent J. [ante, p. 1089], remains, as we presume, uncontradicted by the above statement.

FINE-ART Gossip.—There is a perfect battle of B's with new panoramas to catch the holiday people of London and the country visitors of this festive period of the year. We have Burford, Banvard, Brees and Bonomi, all catering successfully for the amusement and instruction of the public. The veteran Burford still clings (not improperly as we think) to his circular form of exhibiting a country; while Messrs. Banvard, Brees and Bonomi give us the Ohio, New Zealand, and the Nile in a moving onward mode which keeps attention awake,—while, however, it lies under the disadvantage that little is seen of a country or a river at one time, while Burford's plan enables the spectator to see as from a tower the end of all. Messrs. Burford and Bonomi exhibit the most artistic powers in the general treatment and details:—Messrs. Banvard and Brees depend mainly on a certain rude fidelity of character and of outline, in which little is attempted in the way of Art. We have already alluded to the successful Exhibitions of the Nile and of the Valley of Cashmere. They are established favourites with the public; but Mr. Brees's New Zealand and Mr. Banvard's Ohio have yet to make their way. Both Exhibitions will well repay a visit. Mr. Brees was principal engineer and surveyor of the New Zealand Company;—and the whole of the Exhibition has been compiled from drawings made by himself upon the spot while in the discharge of his official duties.—Mr. Banvard has acquired a reputation by his Mississippi,—and his Ohio will do more than maintain it. Mr. Brees, on the other hand, has a reputation to earn;—which his entrance to Port Nicholson and his Palliser Bay, if not the whole of his New Zealand, will certainly ensure.

The Paris papers report the sudden death of M. Duquesney,—the architect employed by the government in the construction of the magnificent edifice in that city which is to form the Terminus of the Paris and Strasburg Railway.

In the same capital, the Academy of Fine Arts has elected M. Léon Coignet into the vacancy occasioned in its section of Painting by the death of M. Garnier.

## MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

## THE PANTOMIMES.

Pantomime, though its attractions be now-a-days divided with the Extravaganza, still maintains its dominion at the chief theatres,—with the exception of the Haymarket and the Lyceum. At the Haymarket, the Messrs. Brough have produced a burlesque entitled 'The Ninth Statue, or the Jewels and the Gem'; in which the interest is fairly supported by Mr. Bland and Miss P. Horton, as respectively a king of geni and a king of mortals. The latter is made visionary by the vulgar inspiration of beer,—and sees in a dream a grotto of eight statues; which grotto with its wealth and ornaments he visits as a "realized ideal" in his waking state. Here, he makes the acquaintance of the geni-king, who imposes a task upon him,—that of finding for him a faultless maiden. The former promises in that case to provide a ninth statue for the vacant pedestal. In this difficult labour King Alasman succeeds. The peerless Virgin is one Zuleika (Miss Kathleen Fitzwilliam): whom having found, however, he desires to appropriate to himself. But the geni *Rumfogi* vio-



lently bereaves him of the fair one; separating them for a while, only to reunite them more happily.—Zuleika being first exhibited as the ninth statue in the mysterious grotto.—Miss Fitzwilliam is an important accession to the female strength of the company.

Mr. Planché's extravaganza at the LYCEUM is, as usual, taken from one of the tales of the Countess D'Anois—that of 'Serpentine Vert.' For elegance of arrangement and brilliancy of grouping, costume, and scenery, Mr. Planché has here exceeded even his former triumphs; but his jokes—and especially his puns—are this season of inferior quality.

The STRAND Theatre could not, on account of its small size, be expected to make room for a pantomime; but has contrived an unusually clever burlesque, supported by an extraordinary amount of dramatic talent. Mrs. Stirling, Miss Rebecca Isaacs, and Mr. Leigh Murray take each an important share in the performance. The piece is mythological,—and even the human interest is classic. It is entitled 'Diogenes and his Lantern; or, the Hue and Cry after Honesty.' *Minerva* announces to the Olympians her determination to visit earth for the purpose of assisting the philosopher in his celebrated search; but the Divinities frustrate her intention by likewise descending, and in various disguises opposing the fair operation of her plans. The design is worked out with much humour;—and the piece met with decided and well deserved success.

DRURY LANE.—The pantomime at this theatre bears a good old English title—'Harlequin and Good Queen Bess.' It sufficed, together with the circumstances attending the re-opening of this time-honoured temple of the Drama, to attract an excessive crowd,—which proved so tumultuous that Shakespeare's play of 'The Merchant of Venice' was performed in almost dumb show. We are not, therefore, prepared to pronounce any judgment on Mr. Anderson's *Shylock* or Miss Addison's *Portia*. The lessee several times addressed the riotous audience,—and at last seemed to enjoy the opportunities afforded him of displaying his rhetoric; but as he has not yet learned the oratorical art of preserving his temper, it would be as well that henceforth he should cultivate such opportunities as little as possible. The pantomime is decidedly a good one,—though much too long. The introduction burlesques the story of Amy Robsart and the Earl of Leicester; but the lovers are saved from a tragic end by the intervention of the Spirit of John Rich, the inventor of Harlequinades,—who prevails against the Spirit of High Tragedy, if not in argument, yet in a kind of reasonable willfulness that serves as well. *Madle Theodore* made a very graceful and sunny *Columbine*:—her face was perpetually arrayed in smiles, while her feet were constantly in motion. The Messrs. Deullin were the *Harlequin* and *Pantaloon*.—Mr. C. Still was the *Clown*. The diorama at the conclusion, presenting the Queen's visit to Ireland, was good;—and the whole was so received as to promise a fair amount of patronage to the lessee if he shall hereafter conduct his theatre with judgment and liberality. The best plays, new as well as old, and the highest genius, both poetic and histrionic, will be expected at a theatre which from its capacious size is calculated to realize on a grand scale the demands of a national drama.

OLYMPIC.—The pantomime here was entitled 'Laugh and Grow Fat, or Harlequin Nut-Cracker.' It is the production of Mr. Nelson Lee,—and is one of the most elaborate of his contrivances. *Nut-cracker* is described as stoker to the Engine of Fun, and is engaged by *Merry Christmas* to overthrow *King Humbug* and secure *Content*. In this task he is aided by the fiery queen *Sincerity*; who forms a plan for the assistance of *Young Merit*, too long concealed under a shade,—and sends to earth the fiery *Joy* with a golden pencil. *Nut-cracker*, being provided with a provisional army and a kitchen corps, proceeds on his march; but, being magically enveloped in temporary darkness, he falls asleep, and is attacked by a host of wandering cats, with which he has to do battle.—The *Clown* was admirably done by Mr. T. Matthews. Mr. Cormack was the *Harlequin*.—Mrs. Malcolm the *Columbine*,—and Mr. Morris the *Pantaloon*. The house was crowded. Previous to the commencement of the performances

Mrs. Mowatt delivered, with good effect, an Address, written by Mr. Albert Smith:—after which, Shakespeare's comedy of 'The Two Gentlemen of Verona' was performed. The selection of such a piece indicates that the management of this new and beautiful theatre will be conducted with taste as well as liberality.

SADLER'S WELLS.—'Harlequin and the Dragon of Wantley, or Moore of Moore Hall, and Mother Shipton's Black Dog' was the well-worn subject of the pantomime at this house. It is by Mr. Greenwood; put together with his usual tact, and produced on more than his usual scale of expense. It is very effective in the performance; the introduction written with neatness and point, and the subsequent tricks being numerous, rapidly executed, and directed to obvious points of satire. The pantomime was preceded by Otway's fine tragedy of 'Venice Preserved,' the part of *Belvidera* being—as it was last year,—performed by Miss Glyn.

MARYLEBONE.—Here we have two new pieces—a domestic drama and a pantomime. The former entitled 'Clara Charette, or a Daughter's Sacrifice,' must await our judgment on some occasion when the dialogue can be properly heard.—The pantomime was decidedly successful. It is the joint production of Mr. Watts and Mr. Nelson Lee,—and is entitled 'Harlequin Fairy Land, the Princess Zela, and her Magic Wishes Three.' The Princess is put up to auction,—and disposed of to the Prince of Poverty. All parties are then transferred to California, but the miseries of the diggers induces a disgust for gold. The princess herself finds refuge in a Lot of Happiness.—Mr. Paul Pietro is the *Clown*.

SURREY.—The pantomime here is by Alfred Crowquill. It has an elegant title,—'The Moon Queen and King Night';—and aims at more than ordinary elegance in its style and appointments. There are fairy bowers and lakes, and fancies floating in nautilus shells, with beves of dancing nymphs, and other such nursery ideals,—which, of course, render the performance highly attractive.

ASTLEY'S and the PRINCESS'S have also pantomimes; the first by Mr. Nelson Lee, entitled 'Harlequin Yankee Doodle,'—the other by Mr. Rodwell, on the subject, and with the title of 'King Jamie, or Harlequin and the Magic Fiddle.'—The CITY OF LONDON Theatre and the SALOONS are, we observe, provided with the same species of popular entertainment:—making a total amount of theatres exceeding all previous example. They have all been well attended:—in this respect showing a marked improvement over the fortunes of last year.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—With a conscience tolerably clear as regards past labour and pains bestowed upon the subject,—there is little left for the musical critic to say regarding the year 1849. Successively have we done our best to chronicle how the past twelvemonth has been the year of Auber in England—the year of 'Le Prophète'—the year of Ernst's violin playing—the year of Viardot's triumph and of Sontag's return—the year of the Birmingham Festival—the year (it must be sorrowfully added) of no native appearance of any importance, the production of Mr. Macfarren's opera and the great success of Miss Hayes in Ireland, perhaps, excepted.—Next week, chroniclers must begin to deal with the signs and tokens of a new period:—some of which are already rumoured to be hopeful and significant of progress. So may it be!—and if those most concerned be only true to themselves, and to their art—so will it be.

#### MISCELLANEA

Mr. Bell and the Circassians.—Having been immersed for some years in the mahogany forests of Central America, I have had little opportunity of knowing what has passed in the world either of letters or of politics. But while here on a visit, my attention has been directed to what has been said in reviews of a book on the Caucasus by Mr. Moritz Wagner, regarding my position in Circassia, subsequently to "the celebrated Vixen Expedition." Though not disposed to re-engage public attention with anything concerning myself, yet the deep interest which I have never ceased feeling both in the cause of Circassia and in that of its heroic defenders whom I had the happiness to become acquainted with, appears to make it a duty for me not to allow an envious prejudice to be promulgated against them without doing all that lies in my power to remove it. As I have not seen Mr. Wagner's book, and know nothing of his statements but

from the critiques which I find in your paper (see No. 189, p. 349) and in a number of Blackwood, I can only repeat the allegations only by your report of them. I beg them to deny most emphatically, that I ever "gave myself out as an envoy from England,"—that I was ever "treated about like a prisoner" (save by one superannuated yet very amiable bigot, of whose strange conduct I gave some account);—and that "it was not very easy for me to get leave to quit the country at last when the expected supplies failed to maintain their appearance." The circumstances under which my second expedition to Circassia was undertaken were so implicitly stated in the introduction to my "Narrative," I never made any statement to the Circassians at variance with these circumstances. I expected further supplies than those I took to have been sent after me. The Circassians expected them, from my statements. The disappointment from their failing to arrive was almost equally cruel for us both, and it is precisely their admirable conduct to me under this most cruel disappointment that I ever considered, and still consider, one of the most undeniable proofs of the native generosity of their character. As you tell us that when Mr. Wagner himself saw of the independent tribes was only from ground more or less occupied by the Russian power, of course his statements as to what occurred among them must have been derived from others,—probably in the Russian interest; therefore, it seems to me less confidence is to be placed in what "seems by Mr. Wagner's account" to have been my treatment. Possibly Mr. Wagner may have misconstrued some passage or passages in the books of Circassia of my friend Mr. Longworth and myself; but, as I have not had either of these books beside me for years, I cannot remember where such misconception may have originated. All the compensation I ever received for my "dangerous adventure"—as you are pleased to call it—was in the kindness and entire confidence with which my "Narrative" was received by my countrymen, as evinced chiefly by the critiques on it in the public journals. I cannot submit to that compensation being pilfered, either intentionally or by mistake; but far less can I submit to have the fair fame of my Circassian friends thus tarnished by their chance of support thus marred. Danger there may still be in another Expedition to that partially blockaded coast,—but not from the Circassians to any Englishman, provided he go, as I did, well certified, and take, as I did, a faithful "kengua." And let any one of my gallant countrymen, disposed to adventure, be assured that, although he may carry with him no "British powder to be set against the Russians,"—nothing but a proof in his visit of the sympathy of his countrymen,—he will be esteemed in himself a host, and will powerfully contribute to sustain a cause which we may still trust in God must eventually be triumphant: any, which may even now, be having its glorious solution wrought out on the plains of Hungary!—I am, &c. Baltimore, July 4. J. STANISLAUS BELL.

Gold Armlets.—Mr. J. Tunstall, of Bowes, Yorkshire, in opening out some ground on his farm, found what appeared to be a large oval ring, open at one side,—such as might be put round the wrist of a female. A further search disclosed five more, of three different sizes, and all having much the appearance of the latter G. On being tested, they were pronounced to be pure gold. The whole weighs nineteen ounces. We think the Roman encampment at Maiden Castle (on Stainmoor), that at Rokeby, and the large one at Gathersley Moor with its large tumulus, might all afford matter for archeologists to investigate. The three encampments are nearly in a line with one another, and all adjoin the great street or Roman road which crosses Stainmoor.—*Sunderland Herald*.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—C. H. H.—H. L.—The Author of 'Richelleu in Love'—F. A. B.—R. T. L.—A Cantabrigia received.

AN OLD FRESMAN is right—and is thanked. R. F. H.—We are unable to understand the purport of this correspondent's inquiry.

T. N.—The methods employed by this correspondent in covering glass plates with a uniform coating of albumen, and the addition of gelatine, have been already published. We agree with him, and with other correspondents on the same subject, that no patent can include the use of glass plates.

MR. SIDNEY SMITH.—We have received from this gentleman—whose work entitled 'The Mother Country' is full of those that read our article, last week, on the "Condition of the People"—a long letter to prove, what his own assertion would have established in a line, that his real name is Sidney Smith; and that he had not attempted to pass off his writings on the public as those of the late Dean of St. Paul's—which it never entered our imagination to suppose he had. We merely conjectured the possibility of his having adopted the very common practice of writing under a feigned name,—and been directed in his choice of that name, as we said, by "some supposed affinity between the art of thought and language which runs through the publication in question and through the writings of Peter Plymley."—That the Dean has been for years in his grave we agree with Mr. Sidney Smith in thinking a very sufficient reason why he should not have written 'The Mother Country,'—and we think, further, it is one which might have guided Mr. Smith to the conclusion that we could never have intended to charge him with so palpable an imposture.

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581	1807	£2000	£263 13 1	£2263 13 1
1374	1810	1200	110 5 0	2300 5 0
6362	1820	5000	3556 17 8	8556 17 8

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